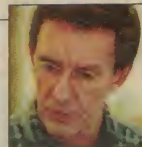


Time for a toke!
The Millennium Marijuana
March comes to SF this Saturday.
page 14

I do, I do, I do!
Thousands of same-sex couples
'tie the knot' in Washington, D.C.
page 16



The royal treatment
Edward II is quite queer
in A.C.T. production.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 18 • 4 May 2000

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Millennium memories

analysis by Bob Roehr

They came, they partied, they got sunburned. You could say a lot more about the Millennium March on Washington, but why bother. It was like a cone of cotton candy – a sweet treat, pretty to look at, but with little substance or intrinsic value. Best not to peer too closely.

It was the national edition of a local pride festival, upgraded with bigger name celebrities, concession stands that charged even more than usual, and a wider selection of rainbow-adorned tchotchkes to purchase.

The speakers droned on for too

long at the podium; less than two hours into the program they were already an hour behind schedule. Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts), the community's most respected political leader and one of the finest public speakers in all of politics showed up for his scheduled appearance on stage at 2:48 p.m. He left never having stepped before the microphone.

Our "good friends" Bill Clinton and Al Gore cared enough to ... send a videotape, just like in 1993. Talk about your symbolism. Evidently two years of advance notice was not

page 20 ►



Participants en route to the National Mall at the Millennium March on Washington last Sunday, April 30.

Rock Gehlert

Gay prisoner wins appeals court ruling

by Ed Walsh

Robert Rosenkrantz, the gay Southern California man imprisoned 15 years ago for killing his basher, scored a major court victory last week but his fight for freedom still faces one final and formidable obstacle: Governor Gray Davis.

Last Thursday, April 27, the 2nd District California Court of Appeals in Los Angeles affirmed a previous Superior Court ruling that Rosenkrantz was unfairly denied parole.



Robert Rosenkrantz

"We won in a big way," an upbeat Rosenkrantz told the Bay Area Reporter in a brief telephone interview from prison Monday, May 1. "From what I've heard the judges were so angry [at the Board of Prison Terms] they were coming out of their chairs."

"Next we are going to file a writ and sue the governor," Rowan Klein,

page 12 ►

ACT UP/SF forms secret trust, buys pot club building

by Terry Beswick

When the first ACT UP/San Francisco began meeting in a local church in the late 1980s, a hat would be passed to help pay for the weekly rental of the room, and other miscellaneous expenses. Most people in attendance would dig deep for a dollar or two.

Those days are long gone.

According to public records on file with the city and county of San Francisco, on November 1, 1999 seven members of ACT UP/San Francisco formed an entity called GTT Trust, and on the same day, the seven co-trustees took out a loan to purchase the Market Street building where the group operates a medical marijuana dispensary.

Contacted by the Bay Area Reporter last Friday, April 28, two of the seven trustees at first denied any knowledge of GTT Trust's existence.

Pressed further to comment on their signatures on the documents which formed the trust, and documentation obtained by the B.A.R. showing that GTT Trust had obtained a lien for \$800,000 to purchase the 1884/1886 Market Street building where they operate the successful dispensary, ACT UP/San Francisco members Michael Bellefountaine and Derek St. Pierre refused to comment.

"I have no idea what you're talking about," said Bellefountaine.

A real estate agent's "For Sale" sign, which had hung for months on the front of the building, was taken down over the weekend.

On November 1, 1999, Michael Bellefountaine, Betty Best, Ronnie Burk, David R. Pasquarelli, Derek St. Pierre, Tate Swindell, and Todd Swindell – identified as the seven co-trustees of GTT Trust – purchased the parcel of land with the three-story building

for \$760,000. In addition to the storefront's ground level and basement that serve as the group's political and retail base of operations, the building has four apartment units on the upper floors.

Pasquarelli, who filed a fictitious business name statement for GTT Trust on March 16 with the county clerk, also refused to answer

page 20 ►



ACT UP/SF's Market Street office.

Jane Philmer/Clear

INSIDE

BAR Talk	50
Classifieds	27
Crime & Punishment	12
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	44
Obituaries	25
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out & About	42
Out There	34
OutRight	10
Personals	51
Sports Complex	26
Survive AIDS	24

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CUAV and MCC join to fight hate in schools

by Katie Szymanski

It's elementary: in order to stop hate, fear and prejudice, kids need to be educated at an early age. So do it.

The San Francisco District Attorney's office, Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, and Community United Against Violence are seeking volunteers for CUAV's speaker's bureau to talk to San Francisco school students about living as a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender person.

Currently, the speaker's bureau sends out volunteers to speak to approximately 8,000 students each year. Since 1978, the speaker's bureau has been providing students with the opportunity to meet LGBT people, question values, destroy myths, and explore feelings. Often the meeting is the first time that a student has had the opportunity to have an open dialogue with someone from the LGBT community.

The volunteer drive will be announced in about 25 churches and synagogues in San Francisco



Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano addressed a crowd of about 50 people last Sunday, April 30, in the Castro protesting institutional homophobia in the legal system. The rally was in response to a plea agreement for Edgard Mora in the killing of gay city resident Brian Wilmes. Other demonstrators urged people to join CUAV's speaker's bureau.

this weekend, so if this is something you'd like to do, act now.

Connie Champagne, the coordinator of the speaker's bureau, especially encourages people of

color and those who speak a language other than English to apply. Those interested in this opportunity should call (415) 775-5500, extension 303. ▼

Court hearing in death of gay biker Friday

by Katie Szymanski

The preliminary hearing for Jibao Washington will resume tomorrow, Friday, May 5, at the Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant Street, on the second floor in Department 27.

Washington, 22, is charged with killing gay biker Franco Martin, 44, during a high-speed police chase last August. According to police reports, Washington's stolen car slammed into Martin's motorcycle, which flew up and hit the top of a highway underpass. With nowhere to go to evade po-

lice, Washington then allegedly ran over Martin a second time in an attempt to flee. Martin died from his injuries 51 days later.

Initially, Washington was charged with manslaughter, but a public uproar and a new attorney on the case caused the charges to be upgraded to second-degree murder.

"Washington made a conscious decision to run over Franco a second time," Dick Manning, Franco Martin's surviving lover, told the *Bay Area Reporter* last September. "And it was that decision that caused Franco's death."

Al Giannini, the assistant dis-

trict attorney assigned to the case, agreed that there was enough evidence to obtain a murder conviction.

Despite rumors last week that Washington's charges again would be downgraded to manslaughter, Ron Huberman, an investigator with the DA's office, denied that the office will bring lesser charges.

"We're still going ahead with murder charge," Huberman told the B.A.R.

At Friday's hearing, however, a judge will decide whether these charges are appropriate. Supporters of Martin are asked to attend tomorrow's hearing at 9 a.m. ▼

StopDrLaura.com at KPIX Monday

by Terry Beswick

Outraged by San Francisco CBS affiliate KPIX-TV's decision to broadcast radio talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger's new television show this fall, activists are planning an 8 a.m. protest at the station's headquarters at 855 Battery Street this Monday, May 8.

Schlessinger, commonly known as Dr. Laura, has used her nationally syndicated radio show, which is quite popular in some circles, to spew voluminous anti-gay rhetoric, including references to gay and lesbians as "biological errors," and comparing gay men to pedophiles.

"This is an issue of corporate responsibility and we will hold San Francisco companies responsible for decisions that affect our community," said Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. "We hope that KPIX will have a change of heart and demonstrate moral leadership on this issue."

Ammiano is expected to speak at the rally, being organized in conjunction with the national StopDrLaura.com campaign, which has been successful in per-

suading national advertisers to withdraw their sponsorship. Organizers are threatening a boycott of KPIX if the station proceeds with its plans to air the show, syndicated by Paramount Television.

"Dr. Laura has the right to express any opinion she wishes, however incorrect and hateful it may be," said Ryan Clary, a StopDrLaura/SF organizer. "However, nowhere in the Constitution does it say that TV stations need to provide a forum for such inflammatory rhetoric just to make a buck."

Meeting at KPIX

Several local activists met with station management on March 17 to discuss their concerns with the station's decision to broadcast the show. In a statement released after that meeting, KPIX said it had received "an enormous volume of e-mails" concerning its plans to air the show locally. "We have heard the voices of our community and are in contact with Paramount Television," the statement said.

"We will reject any program that denigrates or espouses hate or intolerance for any group," said the statement.

Asked what the station would do should Schlessinger espouse

such hate on the TV show, Rosemary Roach, KPIX's director of programming, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that "at that point, we would seriously look at" whether to continue airing the show.

Roach said KPIX has a "contractual obligation" to air the show but that the station "looks at all programming that airs on our station."

Roach said the March meeting with activists went well. "I felt that it was a good meeting. We listened to the concerns of the gay and lesbian community about Dr. Laura."

KPIX noted that it "has a long history in the Bay Area community as a supporter of gay and lesbian rights. While we believe there is room for controversy on television, we do not believe there is room for hate or intolerance," KPIX's statement said.

StopDrLaura/SF is urging local residents to call KPIX general manager Jerry Easton and program director Rosemary Roach at (415) 362-5550 to tell them how they feel about Schlessinger's show. ▼

For more information, call Ryan Clary at (415) 861-1579, or e-mail SFSFStopDrLaura@aol.com.

And the Pride grand marshal winners are ...

by Katie Szymanski

All the food groups are represented in the public's choice for the Pride Parade grand marshals: Supervisor Tom Ammiano, activists and female pillars Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, and Glide Memorial United Methodist Church Church pair Cecil Williams, a pastor, and his wife Janice Mirikitani, the poet laureate of San Francisco.

The winners were announced Wednesday, May 3.

Actress Ellen DeGeneres was selected as the celebrity grand marshal with 582 votes, but should she decide the word "lesbian" is too much for her, the celebrity runner-up, comedian Margaret Cho, received 474 votes, and would be asked to attend, according to Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington.

"I'm not sure how we would handle that," Witherington added.

The AIDS Emergency Fund won the organizational marshal slot, with 293 votes.

Community winners expressed

page 27 ►



Clockwise from top left: Tom Ammiano, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, Reverend Cecil Williams, and Janice Mirikitani

Entertainment for Pride 2000 announced

by Katie Szymanski

The San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Celebration Committee has announced the entertainment lineup for the June 24-25 weekend, and the offerings are a virtual kaleidoscope of possibilities. From multicultural events to a no-talent show, it is not a cliché to say that there is something for everyone this year.

This year pride is celebrating its 30th anniversary; the theme for the weekend is "It's About Freedom."

Beginning on Saturday, June 24, look for the Radical Faerie Village, a commercial-free zone (that's right - no corporate advertisements) in the United Nations Plaza. The village hosts the no-talent show stage (no one is turned away), a chill-out area, a sacred space, and a ridiculously wonderful "Drag Race" whereby teams are given a time limit to dress up a nearly nude model. The village is open both Saturday and Sunday.

Pride also boasts two days of main stage entertainment. Saturday's program will feature what is



Jennifer Holliday

becoming an annual "Stand Against Hate" presentation, with stories and performances about hate crimes from people of various backgrounds. From 2-4 p.m. will be the women's music showcase, meant as a prelude to the annual Dyke March, which takes place later that evening.

Sunday is the day of big names, including performances by chart toppers Eiffel 65 and Sonique on

the Latin Stage. Eiffel's *Europop* album has been on *Billboard's* Top 10 chart for months, and Sonique's, single *It Feels So Good* made it to number eight on *Billboard's* Hot 100 list.

Sunday's main stage will include soul queens Jennifer Holliday and Martha Wash, Scottish gay icon Jimmy Somerville, women's music goddess Gwen Avery, the cast of the musical *Stomp*, and the cream of local queer talent.

Other stages will host specific themes, such as the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center stage showcasing Asian house music, a youth zone called the Electric Playground, and the Imperial Show Palace programmed by the Imperial Court. Also look for the House Music Dance Stage, Rap/Hip-Hop Stage, and Country-Western dance area.

"It's a wonderful mixture of established stars and contemporary acts ... a remarkable cocktail of the best of what San Francisco has to offer," said Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington. "It's very exciting to have all these different things in the same place." ▼

Help Sat. if you suffer from hearing loss

by Ed Walsh

If you are concerned you may be suffering from hearing loss, help is on the way.

The Hearing Society of the Bay Area Inc. has applauded the *Bay Area Reporter's* recent series of reports on noise-induced hearing loss and has extended an invitation to B.A.R. readers to attend its free hearing screening this Saturday, May 6.

The screening is part of the first National Day of Hearing Testing. It will be held at the San Francisco Main Library, first floor, Stong Room, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers from the Hearing

Society and Self Help for Hard of Hearing People Inc. will be on hand to answer questions on hearing loss, assistive devices, and where to get help in the community. The hearing test takes just five minutes.

May has been designated as Better Speech and Hearing Month. Local businesses will be supporting better hearing during the month by organizing a collection drive for donated hearing aids. These aids will be recycled and reconditioned to fit those who would not otherwise be able to afford one.

The Hearing Society hopes its participation in the testing day will be a positive step in its goal to

eradicate the social stigma of admitting a hearing problem.

The society warns that left untreated, hearing loss can lead to job failure, depression, withdrawal, and loss of independence. For questions about hearing loss or National Hearing Testing Day, contact the Hearing Society at (415) 693-5870.

If you can't make it to the free testing, answers to your hearing questions are just a click away. The HearUSA company is offering free assistance through its AudiologistOnline.com service. The Web site allows you the option of chatting live with an expert on hearing loss or you can e-mail your question for an e-mail response. ▼

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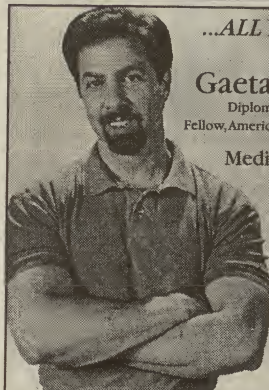
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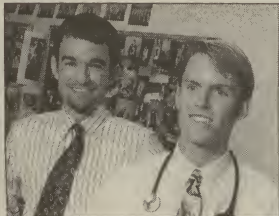
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Service with a smile



A Project Open Hand volunteer served food to well-wishers last Friday, April 28, when the agency hosted its ninth annual Outstanding Volunteer Awards at its Polk Street kitchen. Project Open Hand has been feeding people with AIDS since 1985. In February, the agency expanded services and now provides meals to homebound people living with serious illness. The agency has about 700 volunteers and serves thousands of people annually.

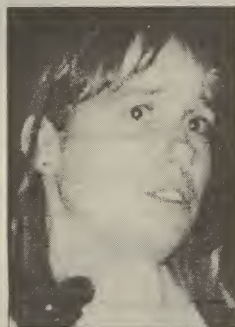
A bad HIV bill and a good health forum

by Katie Szymanski

People living with HIV know all too well the mistrust directed at their positive status. In some states, government suspicion comes in the form of mandatory partner notification laws and making sex without disclosing one's status a felony. But one universal prejudice HIV-positive people face is widespread disapproval if they should choose to start a family.

Here in California, the government has decided once again to "save" us from those who can't be trusted, with the introduction of AB2809 by Assemblyman Robert Pacheco (R-Los Angeles). Pacheco's bill in its original form would test all newborns for HIV antibodies without the mother's consent and delete current provisions to offer the mother counseling. Because the test automatically reveals the mother's serostatus — thereby testing her own body without her consent — public services and private doctors can intervene if the mother should try anything "crazy," such as having another child.

HIV-positive potential parents — take a deep breath. Relief is in sight with an upcoming non-judgmental "Positive Mother-



Rebecca Denison

hood" forum, sponsored by Oakland Kaiser Permanente and the Family Care Network.

The forum will be presented by Dr. Carmen Zorilla of the University of Puerto Rico, Maureen Shannon of Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center, Ontreal Evans of Alta Bates Hospital, and the legendary Rebecca Denison, founder of Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Diseases.

Topics to be addressed include the effects of HIV on pregnancy as well as the effects of pregnancy on HIV, follow-up child care, and issues for HIV-positive people who

are already parents. Most of all, audience questions will be the focus of the forum, which may touch on everything from how the public views a mom who bottle-feeds to healthcare discrimination and HIV-positive parents' rights.

"Positive Motherhood" will be held this Wednesday, May 10, from 6-8 p.m. at the Oakland Kaiser building, 280 West MacArthur Boulevard. Food and child care will be provided. Interested people should RSVP to (510) 596-6848. You do not have to leave your name, but please let organizers know if you are bringing your children, and how old they are. The forum is free and open to all.

Incidentally, those who hated the 1980s AIDS hysteria and oppose mandatory HIV testing without consent should contact their state legislators to help defeat AB2809.

As Denison says, "Very little has gone into ensuring that a woman who tests positive will understand what's happening and have access to care. So it's aggravating when legislators want to pass punitive laws to do things to you and not for you. It's immoral, in fact, when we haven't addressed the deficiencies in the counseling and care that those babies and parents will need." ▼

Turkish bazaar in GGP this weekend

by Terry Beswick

It's all about finding that really good bargain. But don't forget to sample the exotic foods, get your palm read, and your face painted while shopping outdoors at the Bazaar-in-the-Park this Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, at the National AIDS Memorial Grove in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, the general public is invited to bargain hunt in a "bustling tented Turkish bazaar" amid thousands of new and vintage items for the home and garden from some of the area's best known interior designers, designer showrooms, boutiques, antique dealers, and department stores.

Wicker, glass, candles, crafts, garden objects, patio accessories, decorative art objects, refurbished antiques, and other items marked

"below retail prices" will be displayed under a big tent in an "authentic outdoor bazaar," complete with belly dancers, music, and the aroma of grilled ethnic food. Tip to the wise: look for donated samples, seconds, and close-out items from the larger retail stores.

Although the bazaar is a benefit for the grove, organizers want participants to experience the atmosphere of a truly authentic bazaar, and therefore encourage potential buyers to negotiate for the best price.

Tickets to the Bazaar-in-the-Park for the Home and Garden are \$5 for adults; kids 12 and under will be admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult.

And this Friday, May 5, from 7-11 p.m., "A Fair to Remember" will kickoff the bazaar with a gala, including a catered buffet dinner, silent and live auctions, and entertainment in a re-creation of a Turkish casbah. Items to be auc-

tioned include such goodies as walk-on roles in the popular television shows *Touched by an Angel* and *Will and Grace*, a limited edition sculpture by 1920s designer Erté, as well as other fine arts objects, restaurant packages, and, of course, Persian rugs.

Tickets for the Friday night gala event start at \$125; casbah attire is encouraged.

The National AIDS Memorial Grove, "a living tribute to all lives touched by AIDS," is in the final stretch of raising a \$1.5 million endowment to ensure that the grove will be maintained in perpetuity.

The grove is located at the corner of Bowling Green Drive and Middle Drive East, near the tennis courts, in Golden Gate Park. ▼

For directions or other information, call (415) 750-8340, or visit www.aidsmemorial.org.

LGBT economic issues focus of hearing

by Terry Beswick

The specter of dot-com newcomers edging more traditional San Franciscans out of the local housing market has by now become a well-worn stereotype.

But there are indeed real changes afoot in the city, and some activists have been working to make sure the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender commu-

nities come out ahead.

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission will hold a public hearing regarding economic issues affecting the city's LGBT communities on Thursday, May 11 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. The hearing will be held in room 416 at City Hall.

Called for by the HRC's LGBT Advisory Committee, which formed an Economic Empowerment Task Force last year, the hearing will focus on housing,

employment, education, health care, and spiritual validation, and commissioners are inviting testimony from the public in each of these areas. About 30 speakers already are scheduled to testify.

The task force published an initial report, including several recommendations, in January. According to the report, "LGBT economic empowerment is an umbrella term that refers to all the efforts that help LGBT individuals,

page 27 ►

Labor, business to lunch for CAPE May 12

by Terry Beswick

Kathy Levinson, E*Trade president and chief operating officer, will be the keynote speaker at a fundraising luncheon to benefit the California Alliance for Pride and Equality next Friday, May 12, in San Francisco.

Levinson made headlines last year when she donated over \$300,000 to fight Proposition 22, the Knight initiative.

Assemblywomen Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) and Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) also will speak at the event that is billed as the first "Fair Work Place Project Luncheon," planned to "recognize the leadership of the business and labor communities providing sexual orientation protection in the workplace and, in many cases, recognizing domestic partnership benefits."

Organizers are seeking busi-



E*Trade's Kathy Levinson

nesses, organizations, and individuals to sponsor tables for the luncheon for \$1,000, \$5,000, or \$10,000. Individual tickets are available for \$85 per person.

"The fastest growing statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender organization in the country," CAPE lobbies state lawmakers "to ensure the dignity, safety, equality, and civil rights" of LGBT

Californians.

The primary goal of CAPE's Fair Workplace Project is to encourage businesses throughout the state to provide safe, fair work environments for their employees by voluntarily adopting written policies that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The luncheon will honor Pacific Gas & Electric Company, and two labor unions, the Service Employees International Union Local 250 and SEIU Local 790.

Co-hosted by PG&E, the luncheon takes place at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero Grand Ballroom, beginning with a reception at 11:30 a.m. and concluding by 1:30 p.m. ▼

For more information on CAPE, call (916) 492-6160; for information on the luncheon or to purchase tickets, call Anna Damiani at APT Events, (415) 550-8587.

East Bay LGBTQ youth conference Sat.

by Terry Beswick

Hook up, network, and then party at WOA 2000!, this year's Workshop Organized Against Homophobia, a conference held annually for queer youth, young adults, and their allies.

The conference takes place this Saturday, May 6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Olympic High School in Concord, at 2730 Salvio Street, near the Concord BART station.

"It's going to be a really amazing conference where queer young people can come together, feel empowered, and meet each other,

and also get free HIV tests," said Melanie Green of the Center for Human Development's Empowerment Project in Pleasant Hill.

Free food will be provided, said Green, in addition to "workshops, fun, information, and prizes."

After the conference, attendees will shuttle or BART over to an after-party for queer youth, being held from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Sexual Minority Alliance of Alameda County in Oakland. ▼

Bechtel backs down

by Terry Beswick

At a City Hall meeting with Supervisor Mark Leno on Wednesday, May 3, the Bechtel Group announced that they will offer equal benefits to all domestic partners of their 9,500 salaried employees throughout the United States. In addition, the company's U.S. employees who travel abroad will take their benefits with them.

The giant engineering company has 1,500 employees at its San Francisco headquarters alone.

"This is a great step forward," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Bechtel Infrastructure, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bechtel Group, had been in final negotiations with the city Public Utilities Commission to help run billions of dollars worth of construction projects. While the subsidiary was in compliance with the city's equal benefits ordinance, the parent company was not, leading to protests and demands for hearings and investigations from Leno and

fellow Supervisors Leslie Katz and Tom Ammann, as well as Jeff Sheehy of Equal Benefits Advocates and other community activists.

"It's about time," Sheehy said of Bechtel's decision. ▼

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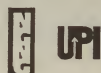
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OPEN FORUM

Smoke and mirrors

Well, it's over. The Millennium March on Washington came and went last weekend, and while, by most published accounts, the celebration was enjoyable for the hundreds of thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender folks who attended, from where we observed it over C-SPAN, the rally seemed to be one long speech and a glorified campaign event for Vice President Al Gore. Did the vice president show up? No, he could only send a videotaped message that was played over huge television monitors. The Human Rights Campaign endorsed Gore early—before the March 7 Super Tuesday primaries—and all he could do for HRC's biggest event in years was to send the standard greeting, like his boss, President Clinton; they did the same at the 1993 March on Washington.

From the stage, HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch unabashedly told the crowd that the most important thing the LGBT community could do was to elect Gore president in November.

Maybe that was the problem with the march; organizers should have admitted months ago that it was really a big Democratic Party lovefest and left it at that.

We've got nothing against Democrats, or Al Gore for that matter, but let's be honest—there were no profound messages at Sunday's rally, just hours of speechifying by mostly the famous of our communities.

March organizers grossly inflated attendance numbers—there's no way nearly 1 million people were there, or even 500,000. Early on, one of the speakers announced an attendance figure of 310,000, which we find more credible, but probably inaccurate. The Ad Hoc Committee for an Open Process placed attendance at 125,000, and went into great detail about how they arrived at that figure. Our Washington correspondent, who has attended numerous marches on Washington, placed attendance at about half of what it was at the 1993 event.

What's next? For starters, the MMOW board must release financial information as quickly as possible. That they were begging for money repeatedly from the stage casts great doubt on the promise made before the march that \$500,000 in "profits" would be distributed to community groups. We certainly hope no nonprofit organization has penciled any money from MMOW into

their budget—and if they have, they better start working on finding funds from alternative sources. That money isn't coming back to the community; it should though, as MMOW had all those corporate sponsors who presumably paid in cash to have their advertising banners posted all over the place.

It just goes to show that groups shouldn't make promises they can't keep. There's a similar accountability problem here at home. Just a few months ago, ACT UP/San Francisco told us that its "books are open." Now, however, comes word that seven members of the AIDS denialist group have formed a secret trust, designed to hide information on how profits from ACT UP/San Francisco's medical marijuana operation—and other income sources—are spent.

No one from ACT UP/San Francisco would confirm the existence of the GTT Trust—in fact one of the co-trustees actually told us he knew nothing about it.



Editorial

Now that's denial.

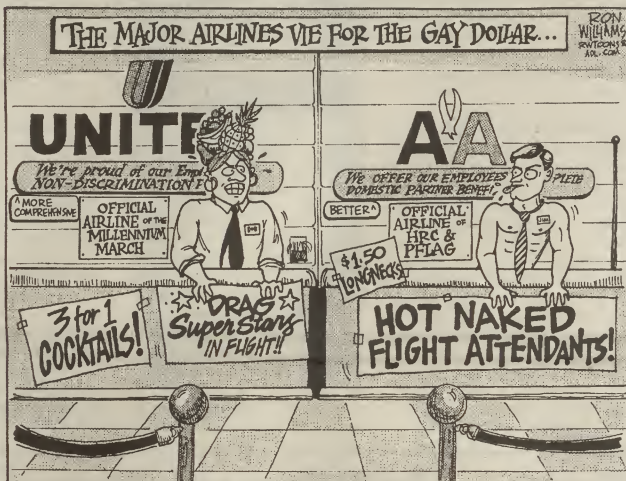
A couple of weeks ago we challenged ACT UP/San Francisco to explain how members can claim that "AIDS is over" and "HIV doesn't exist" then turn around and sell medical marijuana to people living with HIV/AIDS. Well, last week we got our answer, and what a bunch of hyperbole it was: It's not ACT UP/San Francisco that's being hypocritical, we were told, it's the people living with HIV/AIDS who buy the pot from ACT UP/San Francisco who are the hypocrites.

This message puts profits first, which is in fact the same argument they use against the drug companies they criticize.

That ACT UP/San Francisco members should turn on their own customers when their ludicrous arguments fail them is no surprise.

So there you have it. ACT UP/San Francisco cares nothing about anyone, not even its own clients.

Put that in your pipe and smoke on it while you're at the Millennium Marijuana March this Saturday. ▼



Questions about LGBTQQ shelter service provider

by Mike Babbitt, Robert Bruce, Nila Camino, Herb Cohn, Joe Foster, Pauline Shaver, and Eric Sweigard

Since last August, Castro residents have been attempting to work with Supervisor Mark Leno to assist homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, and questioning young adults. Supervisor Leno initially proposed a 24-hour drop-in shelter at 2500 Market Street, the former City Athletic Club, but faced with overwhelming opposition to that idea, he accepted the neighborhood's compromise: an adult residential facility.

Now, the city is contracting with Ark of Refuge Inc. (AOR), a service provider whose sole experience in our neighborhood is with drop-in shelters, and the same organization that ran the "emergency" drop-in shelter at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center last year. We feel that our neighborhood needs a well run and effective facility to address our homeless problem, but Ark of Refuge Inc. is not the appropriate organization to provide it.

During the operation of the EVRC shelter by Ark of Refuge Inc. and since it closed, Collingwood Street has experienced substantial increases in open drug and alcohol abuse, drug overdoses, needles littering the sidewalk and the adjacent park, human excrement in doorways, intimidation, and crime. In desperation, neighbors on

Collingwood Street have hired a private security force to patrol their block. Many of these problems are attributable to the "magnet effect" that the AOR program had in attracting abusive vagrants to the area and to AOR's failure to address the impact on nearby residents, seniors, and parents using the EVRC. These issues have not been adequately addressed for over one year, but the city intends to reward Ark of Refuge Inc. with another contract. Our neighborhood cannot afford another EVRC.

Supervisor Leno has stated that any shelter in any neighborhood is initially faced with opposition, but this is different. Given the aftermath of the EVRC and the current problems on Collingwood Street associated with the drop-in shelter at 27th and Church streets run by Ark of Refuge Inc., which picks up and releases homeless young adults each evening and morning at the EVRC, neighborhood support for any program run by this service provider is an impossibility. To put a vital and valuable opportunity—2500 Market Street is slated for two years—into the hands of an organization that doesn't respect the surrounding neighborhood is foolish and irresponsible. This decision also ignores the fact that many AOR clients loiter in the Castro all day and that neither the service provider nor the city is held accountable when clients do

not receive the appropriate counseling and life skills training. AOR's past performances raise doubt that it has the proper philosophical approach and necessary connections to other service providers to effectively help these young adults break the cycle of homelessness. In addition, in light of these past performances, the selection of Ark of Refuge Inc. calls into question why the city would choose to award this service provider a third contract in our neighborhood.

A program at 2500 Market Street can be successful, but only with an experienced service provider that effectively serves the target population, and not at the expense of our neighborhood.

We believe a successful program for LGBTQQ young adults can only be realized through a true partnership between city agencies, the neighborhood and an effective service provider. We urge the city to redouble its efforts to find a quality service provider for our neighborhood, one with a proven track record of balancing the needs of neighbors and clients. The Castro and LGBTQQ young adults deserve no less. ▼

The authors are members of the "neutral" committee of the community advisory group that have been working on the shelter proposal.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Don't live in denial

How much more "HIV does not cause AIDS" and drug company/medical industry conspiracy nonsense do we PWAs have to listen to? I am really tired of people like John Hole [Mailstrom, April 20] who want to weave their own reality instead of educating themselves. There are people who claim that the Holocaust never took place too. Things do not require belief in them to exist.

I have been living with HIV for almost 15 years. The only time I had significant problems was six years ago when I foolishly listened to ACT UP/SF's rhetoric. I too wanted to believe that "HIV was a lie." I stopped taking antiviral medications. I tried "holistic" therapies and even burnt my skin with DNCB. Within six months, I was in the hospital with PCP and five other bacterial pneumonias. I had three doctors attending me. One flat out told me I should make preparations for my death. After five weeks of what they call "salvage" therapy antibiotics, losing 40 pounds and my ability to walk, my life was saved. My recovery was slow and painful. Fortunately for me, within a few months protease inhibitors came on the scene, and my health made an incredible turnaround. My CD4 count was zero from 1994-1995. Now it has rebounded to over 600. My viral load is undetectable, and my KS lesions have faded.

I am glad that Mr. Hole is HIV-positive and healthy. Perhaps he is one of those very few, lucky individuals who have the genetics that allow his immune system to escape the virus. However, if that is not the case, he should know that HIV can take up to 10 years to significantly impair the immune system and his downfall could be imminent.

Mr. Hole's claim that "all longtime survivors have never taken the drugs" is so absurd that it really doesn't deserve a response, except that some young person who is recently infected may read it and believe it. I have taken antivirals continuously since 1990, except for the few months in 1994 when I stopped and nearly died. The only friends I have lost (with very few exceptions) are those who died before protease inhibitors became available.

Mr. Hole also states he wants someone to "show me a clear picture of the HIV virus." Pick up a medical book, an encyclopedia, or get on the Internet, John. You'll find plenty of pictures and information.

Yes, HIV treatments can have unpleasant and sometimes dangerous side effects. However, I'll take those side effects over the horrendous opportunistic infections an immune system destroyed by HIV can suffer.

I have not written this letter to try to convince someone like Mr. Hole who has taken his arbitrary stance in spite of overwhelming evidence. I have written this letter because I worry very much that young people in our community will read letters like Mr. Hole's and follow this kind of advice rather than that of the established scientific and medical community. My message to recently infected people is this: If you want to try holistic therapies or are afraid of starting antiviral medications, that's okay. Just make sure that you regularly monitor your CD4 count and viral load and are under the care of a doctor experienced in HIV disease. Educate yourself about the disease. With the Internet, there is a wealth of information available to you. Even better, do what I did and take classes in health science. Both City College and S.F. State offer excellent programs in AIDS epidemiology. Don't make the mistake of living in denial. You may not get the chance to change your mind.

Mike Bailey
San Francisco

Thanks for the memories

May 1 marked my last day as AIDS policy advisor to Mayor Willie Brown. For the last two years, I have worked closely with Mayor Brown and other government officials to address important AIDS and HIV policy issues. At times, the positions I have articulated have been at odds with some in the community; more often, we have been a unified voice in fighting complacency and improving the lives of people impacted by AIDS and HIV in San Francisco and throughout the world.

I have learned a great deal in my time with you, and wanted to share with San Franciscans my impressions about the state of AIDS. There are five important things I wanted to share as I depart:

1. The enemy is AIDS, not each other. Far too often, we focus on the motives or personalities of our colleagues working on AIDS, on their salaries or on their scientific conclusions. None of this changes a fundamental fact: Each of us is a human being with all of our frailties; the only true enemy is AIDS, and the HIV virus that causes it. Those people who have given of themselves to work in nonprofit agencies in this field do so for far less money and significantly less comfort than drug company executives or other private sector industry leaders. We have to remember to be kind to one another.

2. AIDS hasn't changed that much in San Francis-

co. All the available data indicates that in San Francisco, gay and bisexual men and those men who inject drugs are far and away bearing the greatest burden of HIV disease. While gay and bisexual men of color are increasingly impacted, white gay men between the ages of 25 and 35 account for the greatest number of new HIV infections recorded by the Department of Public Health last year. While it's true that the epidemic nationally is now one that predominantly impacts people of color, in San Francisco we must redouble our efforts in every community, including among gay white men, and avoid supporting a paradigm that pits one group against another and exacerbates racism, sexism, or homophobia.

3. You don't need government support to respond to AIDS. There was a time when the community stood up to ensure that our brothers and sisters, who at the time were dying of AIDS, were comforted and cared for. Today, countless volunteers provide a wide variety of services to persons living with AIDS. From service on boards of directors to direct medical care and meal preparation, volunteers continue to make a tremendous difference in responding to AIDS. While the government has an obligation to support HIV/AIDS programs financially, we must renew our community commitment to philanthropy and service so that we can define how we best respond to AIDS free from government mandates.

4. Lies are lies, no matter who's spreading them. The recent rantings of AIDS revisionists are no different than the hysterical claims of those who, at the beginning of the epidemic, claimed that persons with AIDS should be quarantined because they might spread HIV through casual contact. The claims of these AIDS revisionists are not supported by the available scientific research, fail to withstand the scrutiny of critical analysis, and are harmful to persons living with HIV. These specious claims must be repudiated with one unified voice from people with HIV and our advocates.

5. AIDS isn't everything. Some of my reasons for leaving include my desire to reclaim some normalcy in my life, to experience new challenges (like learning how to drive), and finding someone to share my life with. At 23, there's a whole world out there that I'm looking forward to exploring. I will continue to be involved in AIDS, as an advocate and someone who will continue to be impacted by this thing until we find a cure. That doesn't mean AIDS is everything, and some balance goes a long way to wellness which, along with T-cells, is ultimately what HIV-positive folks can use a lot more of.

Finally, I want to thank the people whose counsel and support I have relied on, especially the late Dick Pabich, the San Francisco media for reporting on AIDS with professionalism and accuracy, and the people with HIV and AIDS whose constant nudging, encouragement, and help meant the world to me in the last 24 months.

Keep it up!

Bill Barnes
San Francisco

Business as usual in SF

Once again, we find out who really rules in San Francisco government: that almighty dollar. Last week, the Rules Committee of the Board of Supervisors once again perpetrated an outrageous exclusion of several segments of the transgender community with 11 appointments to the newly created TG Civil Rights Implementation Task Force.

The ugly question now is whose civil rights do they really want to implement? So far, all 11 chosen task force candidates are from affluent communities. Not one of the task force members is from the Tenderloin where much of the discrimination exists. There were qualified candidates who would be suitable for one of those seats from that community. Supervisor Mabel Teng even noted the absence of an Asian candidate. Did anyone bother to work with the Asian community?

There also is no youth voice on the task force. Young trans people have special issues. They certainly are entitled to a voice on a task force whose recommendations can directly affect the rest of their lives. Why no youth? Are young people like the poor ... a people to be discarded? I do not think so.

I feel that these selections are too poorly representative of the reality of the transgender community. For those who are low-income, young, Asian, and other underrepresented communities, let us discuss the possibility of a protest on the steps of City Hall, demanding full inclusion of all communities within the transgender community. We also should speak out in the full board meeting that will make the final decision on who serves on the task force to let the Board of Supervisors know that these choices are inadequate for a city that is the world leader in human rights.

Rosalyn S. Montgomery
Founder and Executive Director
Transgenders United for Equality
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What an arm

Three cheers to the blond in the black Porsche, who perfected her tennis racket technique on the fools in the pickup truck at 16th and Market ["Volley girl," *Crime & Punishment*, April 27]. What kind of badly raised hooligan goes up to a car window to throw soda on the lady inside. She may be guilty of bad driving, she may even need her driving license reviewed, but she doesn't deserve bad manners and lack of gallantry. She should have smashed more than their windows and their heads.

Cavan J. Candito
San Francisco

Stoned again

Leave it to Supervisor Mark Leno to answer a meaningless question that nobody's asking as he creates yet another needless new bureaucracy to dispense medical marijuana cards ["Boycott of SF's pot ID cards threatened," April 27]. Maybe it's just urban legend, perhaps the board of the day was just too stoned to write it down but I was under the impression that it's been policy of the city and county of San Francisco for decades that the police department is under civilian political direction to not expend resources on the sole enforcement of marijuana possession laws.

If the purpose of these cards is to allow the SFPD to distinguish the medical users from the garden variety potheads, and as a city we don't care to prosecute potheads, then what's the point of this exercise but to collect information on marijuana users?

Am I expected to believe that the Brown administration and its six appointed knife-and-spoon operators on the Board of Supervisors have solved enough of our existing urban problems (not to mention the ones they have been busy creating for five years) that they have time to scrape the bottom of the barrel to spend taxpayer money to provide a criminal defense to a petty drug non-crime that we've ostensibly directed our police not to enforce?

One is left to wonder how the understaffed SFPD finds time to enforce marijuana possession, what with their 1:10 ratios of cop to crowd at the anti-IMF/World Bank march last month, vigorously protecting Donald Fisher's properties against free speech, their racist campaign in the Mission to cite Latino and black bars to "flip" them into white hipster hangouts as part of the urban ethnic cleansing campaign of forced gentrification, the public safety "emergency" at PacBell Park requiring police presence and their incessant hassling of the homeless while allowing crack and heroin dealers to run free?

All this while the California Vehicle Code goes largely unenforced and enraged motorists roam our streets free to kill and maim bicyclists and pedestrians with their cars. It's time to assert civilian control over the SFPD to replace the warped priorities of our current state of cynical political control with true community policing that has the priorities of our communities at the forefront.

Marc Salomon, Candidate, Supervisor District 6
San Francisco

Amos Brown's opponent speaks

I want to thank Wayne Friday for his column "Gays, lesbian target San Francisco board seats" in the March 30 issue. I have been encouraged and look forward to the challenge of running for the 11th District seat for the Board of Supervisors. My main opponent will be our new neighbor, the Reverend Amos Brown.

Although our district probably has the lowest population of gays and lesbians, and I care deeply about the issues of the gay community, I want to work with all walks of life and hopefully deal with issues that involve all San Franciscans, including people that live in districts 1 through 10. If anyone knows my work, they know that children, families, and youth issues are at the top of my list as well as issues that deal with the quality of life for everyone who lives in San Francisco.

I am up to the challenge of campaigning to become the 11th District supervisor. If anyone is interested in my candidacy, my campaign kick-off will take place on Saturday, June 3 and you can e-mail me at steven.currier@sfdistricts.org with questions, concerns, or for more information. My Web site will be up and running on June 3 and it will be www.Steven-Currier.com. I look forward to the support from the gay community.

Steven R. Currier, Candidate, Supervisor District 11
San Francisco

Ignorance and economics

It was very good to see your article on "Dangerous decibels" in the B.A.R. on April 6. I worked in clubs back in the 1970s and was in the lighting and sound business. As a result of what I experienced, I started wearing earplugs back then. Sadly, many of my cohorts were going deaf, especially to high frequencies.

An insidious consequence was the management and deejays being partially deaf tended to specify and adjust the sound systems to please themselves and this made it more damaging to virgin ears.

As an answer to your hypothetical questions "If

they turned the music down to a 'safe' level, it wouldn't be as much fun, right?" and "Why don't the clubs turn the volume down?" I would say it is a combination of both ignorance and economics.

For example a typical club is usually a concrete box or some other industrial space with little or no acoustic treatment. You also have lots of cheap ice machines, ventilators, dishwashers, and other noisy equipment, and on top of that you have the noise created by 1,000 people yelling to be heard and the sound of 500 stomping feet. I have actually measured this "ambient" sound level at 80+ decibels in some environments. (Note this must be measured with the sound system playing because people speak more softly and don't dance when it is off.)

As any audiophile knows one of the largest factors in the "clarity" of an audio system is the "signal to noise ratio." In a club space this can be seen as the ratio of the sound system output to the ambient noise from other sources. As you can see with an ambient level of 73 dB you would have to have 100 dB to have a S/N ratio of a paltry 25 dB. About that of a cheap AM radio on a distant station.

So, reducing the ambient noise will make it sound much better at significantly lower sound levels. But it is expensive to create or renovate architecture for a club and buy quiet equipment. Much cheaper just to mask the bad acoustic environment with louder music.

Peter Kennard
West Hollywood, California

Some causes of diarrhea

Thanks for printing Matt Sharp's article "Dealing with diarrhea," (April 27). We can never learn too much about our bodies and how they work or don't work. A century ago, diarrhea was among the five leading causes of death in America. And today, people are still dying from diarrhea (mostly from dehydration due to fluid lost in the stool). Sharp states that up to 15 percent of diarrhea in HIV/AIDS patients is directly related to the meds they take. What he doesn't say is how the other 85 percent get the runs.

Studies show that our tap water right here in San Francisco is tainted with cryptosporidium. A "normal immune system" is able to tolerate this nasty bacterium without gastric/colonic upset. HIV/AIDS patients are well advised to avoid drinking this water, using pure spring or distilled water instead. The reason our water is tainted? Not far above the Hetch Hetchy reservoir there is a mule trail where every spring, summer, and fall, tourists get to ride mules for fun. Mule stools slide down the hillside and plop right into our reservoir. The "spor" part of the word cryptosporidium refers to the bacterium in its dormant state. Mules are carriers of the spores, not the living and breeding bacteria. Our intestines are where cryptosporides come to life and proliferate (and cause the runs). Your regular doctor might give you a poison like flagyl to kill the bugs. I'd go to a good health food store, like Rainbow Grocery, and get an herbal remedy for such parasites.

A second big cause for diarrhea is improper diet, one with empty calories and not enough fiber. Many of us don't seem to know any better way to eat; and for those who do, faulty diets are still the order of the day. Then there's milk and other dairy products. Most adults are lactose intolerant and the symptoms are a lot of farting and some very loose stools. Cut the dairy and see if that helps.

Lastly, a lot of gay men and males having gay sex engage in "rimming" (tongue to anus contact). There is a whole catalog of bugs and worms and things that live and thrive in the lower colon and rectal areas. After rimming a stranger in the St. Mark's Baths, years before AIDS, I came down with cramps so bad I had to go to a hospital. A microscopic exam revealed the culprit was shigellosis, as the dreaded bacteria are called. This odious and painful experience changed my sex habits to the extent that I no longer am at risk for shigella or other anally transmitted ailments.

There are lots of good books on proper nutrition (without meat), naturopathic and homeopathic remedies for every ailment known; healers galore (especially here in the Bay Area) who do not have "M.D." after their name and therefore won't poison you with overpriced and toxic prescription drugs but may well heal you a lot better than your average medical doctor.

We are still locked into a mentality that says wait for symptoms to appear and then apply a "treatment." At the risk of being cliché, is not an ounce of prevention worth a pound of cure?

John S. Connolly III
San Francisco

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POLITICS

U.S. Senate race off to a slow start

by Wayne Friday

Though there are still six months until state voters elect a president and a U.S. senator, the contest between incumbent **Dianne Feinstein** and her Republican challenger, Representative **Tom Campbell**, appears to be off to an unusually slow start.

Some state Republicans are reportedly concerned that Campbell, the Palo Alto Republican who defeated four other GOP candidates to win the nomination on March 7, not only has yet to hire a campaign manager, organize a statewide effort, or make any headlines, he is reportedly still vacationing in Greece with his family. Usually, in a state as large and a campaign as important as a Senate race, the challenger would be busy using the weeks following the primary to raise funds for the general election, mend political fences, and try to formulate issues that would generate early press coverage. Taking your family to Greece for a vacation certainly seems to be a bit unusual, particularly when you are facing an opponent with the popularity and name recognition that Feinstein enjoys.

Suffice it to say that Feinstein, who outpolled the entire five-man GOP field on primary day by more than 600,000 votes, a feat made all the more impressive by the fact that 700,000 more people voted in the GOP presidential primary than on the Democratic side, is a very tough opponent for the Republican challenger. Campbell first ran for the U.S. Senate in 1992 while then a member of the House of Representatives, lost the nomination that year to a conservative Republican, but ran for a state Senate seat in Santa Clara County, won it, and was elected back to the House in a 1995 special election; he now feels he has finally won the nomination he feels he should have had eight years ago when his Democratic opponent would have been the lesser known **Barbara Boxer**.

Instead of facing Boxer, however, Campbell now faces the daunting task of taking on the widely popular Feinstein, a centrist Democrat in a state that clearly likes centrist candidates. For a hint at what Campbell faces, one only has to look at Santa Clara County - Campbell's home turf - where Feinstein won 54 percent of the vote on March 7, outpolling even Campbell by more than 100,000 votes. Indeed, Feinstein, long popular with Democratic as well as GOP voters (particularly Republican women voters), finished first in every California county on March 7 where the so-called "open primary" allowed for cross-over voting. Feinstein, in fact, won an astonishing 38 percent of the overall vote in heavily Republican Orange County, where Republicans traditionally must win two-to-one to offset Democratic gains elsewhere.

In other heavily GOP counties, Feinstein polled 42 percent in San Bernardino County, 41 percent in Riverside County, and an impressive 46 percent in San Diego



Attendees at the Millennium March enjoyed a fun afternoon in the sun.

County. In the traditionally Democratic strongholds, the former San Francisco mayor easily ran up huge pluralities; in Los Angeles County, for instance, Feinstein took 60 percent of the vote and her raw vote there was nearly twice that of the entire GOP field of candidates. In the usually Democratic Bay Area counties, Feinstein also won by unusually high pluralities, and in every county in the state she ran substantially ahead of the Democratic presidential primary winner, Vice President **Al Gore**.

Fundraising is another area where Campbell appears to have fallen badly behind Feinstein. The figures as of the first filing period show Feinstein had raised \$6.5 million, with cash on hand of \$2.2 million; Campbell, in contrast, had raised about \$2.5 million with only \$615,000 cash on hand. Since the March 31 filing deadline, the Feinstein camp has reportedly raised at least another \$2 million while Campbell's campaign has reportedly been very quiet in the fundraising department.

Sources familiar with the Campbell campaign say that part of his fundraising problem almost certainly is because of some of those he has managed to alienate while serving in the House. Campbell's position to tax the Internet, for instance, has reportedly upset many of the usual Republican donors in his home base of Silicon Valley. Campbell is also very unpopular with Jewish checkbook Republicans because of his record of support, or lack thereof, for Israel. In fact when it comes to support for Israel, Campbell is said to have one of the 25 worst votes in the entire House of Representatives. Another issue that still bothers a lot of Californians - Republicans and Democrats alike - is Campbell's vote in the House, following the lead of his conservative GOP colleagues, to impeach President **Bill Clinton**.

On some issues Campbell is seen as a moderate - he supports at least some kinds of gun control, is pro-choice on the abortion issue, and sometimes supports gay rights issues. However, the latest statewide poll I've seen has Feinstein leading Campbell by a 52 to 19 percent advantage, and with an opponent such as Feinstein, who is known to 98 percent of all California voters and viewed favorably by more than 60 percent of them, Campbell has, at best, an

uphill fight to even pose a threat to the re-election of the state's senior senator.

Indeed, even as some California Republican strategists fear that the likely GOP presidential nominee, **George W. Bush**, has all but "given up" on winning the state, some of those same analysts are saying that Campbell has little or no chance of winning in November either. Some state Republicans fear that those GOP managers in Washington given the task of raising funds for senatorial candidates, have already all but given up on Campbell and are ready to put their campaign dollars in states the GOP feel they have a better chance of winning. That's hardly good news for a candidate whose campaign is already seen as badly lagging.

Feinstein, meanwhile, has a campaign in high gear, is raising funds with relative ease, and is sure to get a huge public relations boost for her already well-oiled campaign when the Democratic Party holds its presidential nominating convention in Los Angeles in August.

Politics and people

Sunday's Millennium March on Washington, controversial as it was (some national gay and leaders strongly supported it while others openly boycotted or ignored it) looked from where I watched it (C-SPAN and national news coverage) to be a success. I've gotta say I was impressed not only by the size of the crowd, estimated at between 200,000 and 500,000, but by the speakers like Representative **Tammy Baldwin**, San Francisco comedienne **Margaret Cho**, D.C. Mayor **Tony Williams**, and in particular, **Denise Shepard**, father of murdered Wyoming student **Matthew Shepard**, who told the crowd that "You are a God-fearing part of this America and you deserve the same rights. ... Be smart, be safe, and always be proud of who you are." Whether Sunday's march will accomplish its intent - to show pride in the movement and appeal to all of us to mobilize as a political force particularly in the November presidential election - remains to be seen. But to be sure, when you can show the homophobic bigots like **Jesse Helms**, **Tom DeLay**, **Trent Lott**, **Pat Robertson**, and the rest of the Republicans that we can at least show up by the hundreds of thousands in their own backyard, surely that alone is a good thing. Personally, I can only say "well done" to those who put on Sunday's March; wish I had been there.

Many in our community are
next page ►

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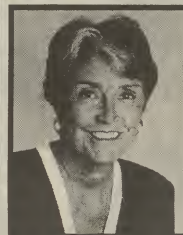
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Fear of being ordinary

by Dale Carpenter

A specter haunts the "queer" left: the normalization of gay life. Over the past decade, in movies, on television, and in the theater, gay people have enjoyed unprecedented visibility. Further, the representations of gay people in these media have been fairer than ever before in showing the diversity of gay life.

Consider movies. Starting in about the mid-1990s, fairness began to creep in. *Priest* and *Philadelphia* treated us to ordinary people who are sincere, responsible, hardworking, devoted to friends and family, and gay. These movies strongly suggested that in a better world, that last attribute would be among the least important facts about the characters. Their troubles stemmed from others' prejudice, not from their homosexuality. In movies like the Academy Award-winning *American Beauty*, it's homophobia that creates the problems.

Look at TV. Television shows from *Frasier* to *Friends* have woven gays into the story lines without much fanfare. Comedy Central regularly features openly gay comics. The "Will of Will & Grace" is an openly gay lawyer who dresses conservatively, lacks stereotypically gay mannerisms and gestures, and has all the usual vices and virtues you'd expect in a sitcom character. Will's hilarious friend Jack does have campy flair but at least he's seen as no more self-absorbed than any other character.

You would expect the American Family Association, the television reverends, and the various other anti-gay monitors of our culture to criticize such routine portrayal of unexceptional gay characters. And so they do; the routinization of gay life subverts every stereotype their prejudice feeds upon. But if you think they are alone in their alarm at the emergence of the ordinary homosexual, you are wrong. They are joined, for somewhat different reasons to be sure, by the self-de-

scribed queer left.

The novelist Michael Cunningham, in a film review not long ago for the *New York Times* entitled "Just Your Ordinary (Gay) Guy," wrings his hands at the thought of masculine, "assimilated" gay men who are "just like everybody else, except for one little thing." Cunningham praises the character Diego in the film *Strawberry and Chocolate*. He likes the fact that Diego is "swishy and coy," worships the opera star Maria Callas, fusses over his collection of French teacups, and suffers unrequited love for a straight man. He praises the character — many of whose traits would fit neatly into the worldview of Lou Sheldon and the Traditional Values Coalition — as a "step in the right direction" in the portrayal of gay characters.

Other examples of this type of cultural criticism abound. There's the recent piece in *Harper's* in which the author lambastes periodicals like *Out* and *POZ* for showing clean, contented, freshly scrubbed gay women and men. Where's the unseemliness, the sex advertisements, the fetishists? asks the contemptuous writer. Pat Robertson might have asked the same thing.

The queer left saw cultural shift coming and tried to head it off at the pass. In her 1995 book, *Virtual Equality*, Urvashi Vaid denies that homosexuals are "just like" heterosexuals and describes gays as almost a subspecies of Homo sapiens, with their own peculiar values and ideas. In *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*, Daniel Harris laments the demise of gay camp and kink. A few years ago, a columnist writing under the pseudonym "Orland Outland" for *San Francisco Frontiers* magazine, bitterly criticized gays "who have put their own sense of being alien behind" them.

You may remember Luke Sisyfag, the former ACT-UP activist who once distributed graphically illustrated condom packages to schoolchildren, regularly pranced before cameras in lipstick, eyeliner, and pink plastic hair barrettes,

and championed the idea of a natural gay "queerness." He now calls himself Luke Montgomery and appears on fundamentalist radio programs to decry the "gay lifestyle" as "totally devoid of any moral character" and consisting of nothing but rampant sex and continual drug use. He says anti-discrimination laws are "fascistic," promoted by a gay community that doesn't feel good about itself.

Some say Luke's present and past personas are inconsistent; I say they are perfectly consistent. If there is one person who literally combines in one body the fear felt by both the queer left and the anti-gay right that homosexuals might one day be considered ordinary members of society, it is surely he. Whether he's trashing us or defending us, it's all the same. He wants gays to be seen as somehow special.

And that's just it, isn't it? Behind all the talk of revolutionary values, the need for a "sense of being alien," the supposed subversion of gender roles, lies the fear of being ordinary. It is the child-like need to have everyone's attention. If it is ordinary to be gay, there's nothing special about you on that account. You have no secret rings or rites, no hidden passages or esoteric language, no distinct set of values, no special insight into human suffering or longing. You're only an individual who must make your own way in the world, unable to depend on the safety of belonging to an elect tribe.

It is mythologizing and harmful to show gays as the queer left has romanticized us — as sexual revolutionaries, with alien natures and values, threatening and iconoclastic, angry, ennobled, and enlivened by our oppression, not "just like them" in the sense that matters. But we are better, and bigger, than that. We need not fear being ordinary. ▼

Dale Carpenter, an attorney, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com.

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

now screaming at the fact that District Attorney **Terence Hallinan** let the murderer **Edgard Mora** off with a sweetheart involuntary manslaughter deal for killing openly gay **Brian Wilmes**, although during the heat of a tough re-election campaign, Hallinan promised to re-try the case. "I know we can do better than involuntary manslaughter," Hallinan then proclaimed. Well, to my friend, Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano** (who once said he was happy his runoff votes "helped re-elect Terence") and the others who held the protest rally Sunday at Harvey Milk Plaza (an appropriate spot, incidentally, since Harvey detested Hallinan) I ask: where the hell were you last December during the runoff campaign when we had the chance to get rid of this guy and elect a real prosecutor?

Gay Republicans in the East Bay's 10th Congressional District tell me they have a gay rights supporter they can vote for in the person of **Claude Hutchinson**, the Contra Costa County GOP chair, but incumbent Representative

Ellen Tauscher, a self-described "Feinstein Democrat," looks like a shoo-in for a third term in that district.

In Marin's 6th Assembly District, where termed-out Assemblywoman **Kerry Mazzoni** must give up her seat, even Republicans are conceding that the Democratic nominee, with a sure-win political name like **Joe Nation**, coupled with his movie-star good looks, will easily win there, replacing Mazzoni.

In San Francisco, where the hard-working Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** will easily be re-elected to her final term this November, I'm told that some of her growing cadre of supporters want her to run for the state Senate, after **John Burton** retires from that seat, while many others are urging her to run for mayor.

Sacramento political observers and activists from both parties are openly predicting that Insurance Commissioner **Chuck Quackenbush's** political career is all but washed up; the guy apparently brought on his own troubles by being too cozy with insurance companies he was supposedly regulating, diverting funds intended to assist earthquake victims, promoting himself in expensive tele-

vision ads, and generally making political enemies galore in Sacramento.

A result of the tired **Elián González** saga is that the Gore camp, which saw Florida as pretty much out of reach anyway, now has written off chances of carrying that state, thus, there goes Florida U.S. Senator **Bob Graham's** chances of being Gore's vice presidential choice. According to Democrats in the know, Graham had been at the top of Gore's short list.

Elizabeth Taylor, the country's best-known AIDS activist, will part with a couple of her own precious expensive diamonds (she put them up for auction) during the "A Diamond Tribute to Elizabeth Taylor" event scheduled for May 12 in London. The benefit is part of a weeklong celebration being held there commemorating the star being proclaimed a Dame of the British Empire, and she insisted the party be turned into a fundraiser to fight the disease.

My "Quote of the Week" comes from Taylor, who boldly told those feting her that if "You want me to appear, you gotta cough it up for AIDS."

And how was your week? ▼



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The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is considering legislation that would place new regulations on the Internet which could delay access to high-speed service and leave consumers with fewer choices.

Yet hundreds of local governments across the country have wisely chosen to let the Internet flourish *without* government regulations.

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
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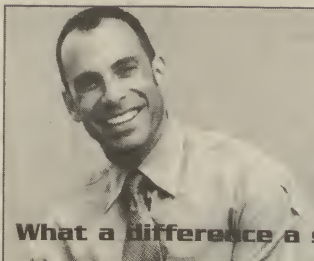
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Land shark

by Jane Warner

900 block of Dolores, April 23, 2 p.m.: While reading at her kitchen table, a woman heard a noise, looked up and saw a strange man walking down her hallway. Startled, the woman asked him why he was in her house, and the man responded he was a city tax collector and needed to conduct an inspection of the property. The woman showed him around, but when they reached the bedroom, the man grabbed her waist and clasped his hand over her mouth telling her, "Don't scream. I just want your money." The woman gave him her purse and the suspect took \$120. Before leaving, the robber asked the woman if she wanted to have sex with him. The woman said no.

The suspect, described as a white male, 30-40 years old, 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing 200 pounds, wearing a red and blue shirt and dark slacks, left the house in an unknown direction.

Mug shot

17th and Noe Liquor Store, 3900 17th Street, April 27, 1:30 p.m.: A man came into the liquor store and wanted to buy alcohol. The clerk asked for identification and the man said, "I'll show you ID," and pulled a silver handgun from his waistband. The robber took about

\$300 from the cash register and a bottle of tequila. He was joined by a second suspect who was waiting outside acting as a lookout. Both men were seen getting into a red Mazda or Nissan which drove east-bound on 17th from Noe.



The suspects are described as Hispanic males in their early 20s. The gunman was 5 feet 5 inches tall, weighing 160 pounds, wearing a black baseball cap, black jacket with two horizontal stripes across the front, a diamond stud in his right ear and two gold earrings in his left. The other suspect was muscular and wore a blue wool cap and a black zipped up jacket.

Crash & smash

The Stationery Toy Store, 2150

Market, April 26, 9 a.m.: The owner of the toy store tried to inform a man sleeping on an abandoned sofa fronting his store that the Department of Public Works was on its way to pick up the couch. The two got into a verbal argument, shortly joined by the man's girlfriend who came from around the corner. The woman picked up an unknown object and threw it at the store's glass window, shattering it. The man then shattered the store's glass door with his fists.

The couch potato vandal is described as a white male, 40 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 170 pounds, with long dirty brown hair and wearing a red plaid shirt. His girlfriend is described as a white female in her 20s, 5 feet 5 inches tall, weighing 130 pounds, with faded blue jeans and a green shirt. Both fled east-bound on Market Street when the owner called police. ▼

Gay prisoner

◀ page 1

Rosenkrantz's attorney, told the B.A.R. Davis blocked Rosenkrantz's parole last fall, in keeping with his vow to stop the parole of all convicted murderers.

Rosenkrantz's battle for parole has been tied up in the courts for more than a year. In March 1999, a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge first ordered Rosenkrantz paroled. Judge Kathryn Ann Stoltz said there was no evidence Rosenkrantz remained a danger to society. Stoltz also found that two members of the Davis-appointed Board of Prison Terms were biased against Rosenkrantz and had earlier wrongly denied him parole. The board complied with Stoltz's order and set a parole date of January 2001, but Davis revoked it last November.

Judge Stoltz countered the governor in January by ordering the Board of Prison Terms to hold another parole hearing and grant Rosenkrantz another parole date. That hearing had been scheduled for March but was canceled at the request of Rosenkrantz's attorney. Klein instead opted to take the case directly to the California Court of Appeals.

The three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals affirmed Stoltz's original decision in its opinion issued last week. The court ordered the Board of Prison Terms to hold a new parole hearing for Rosenkrantz, find him suitable for parole and set a parole date. "They [the Court of Appeals] said the Board of Prison Terms should be ashamed of itself," said Klein. Klein plans to sue Davis to force him to follow the court's ruling and prevent him from again blocking Rosenkrantz's parole.

Rosenkrantz has widespread support, including that of Los Angeles County District Attorney Gil Garcetti, the judge who presided over the murder trial, the detective who investigated the case, and the victim's grandmother. At least four state lawmakers have lobbied for Rosenkrantz's release: Assemblywomen Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) and Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), and state Senators John Vasconcellos (D-Santa Clara) and Martha Escutia (D-Huntington Park). Last December, the West Hollywood City Council threw its collective hat into the ring by passing a resolution urging Davis reverse his decision that blocked Rosenkrantz's parole.

Rosenkrantz was 18 when he shot and killed his former schoolmate, 17-year-old Steve Redman. The 1985 shooting ended a chain of events that began a week earlier on the night of Rosenkrantz's high school graduation.

Redman, along with Rosenkrantz's younger brother, burst into a graduation party hosted by Rosenkrantz, called him a "fucking faggot," beat him with a flashlight, breaking his nose, and shot him with a stun gun. Redman continued the torment by outing Rosenkrantz to his father, who threw his son out of the house.

Rosenkrantz said he became despondent and was living out of his car when he confronted Redman with an Uzi outside Redman's Calabasas condominium. Days earlier, Rosenkrantz purchased the weapon and said he had fantasized about shooting up Redman's car. During the confrontation, Rosenkrantz pointed the Uzi at Redman's car and demanded he come with him to his parents' house to take back his outing. Redman refused, laughed, and again called Rosenkrantz a "fucking faggot." Rosenkrantz opened fire, shooting Redman 10 times. Rosenkrantz eventually turned himself in and was convicted of second-degree murder. He was sentenced to 17-years-to-life in state prison. Rosenkrantz has expressed deep remorse for the killing and has since reconciled with his family.

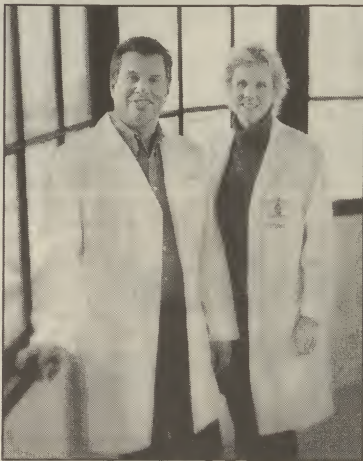
Although pleased with the *Los Angeles Times'* coverage of his big court victory last week, Rosenkrantz was critical of the Los Angeles broadcast media's virtual blackout of the story. "They always report the negative stuff about my case," Rosenkrantz said.

By all accounts, Rosenkrantz has been a model inmate.

Rosenkrantz told the B.A.R. he would like to live in San Francisco when he's released. He said he remains hopeful but tries not to be too optimistic because his hopes have been dashed too many times before.

Spending virtually all his adulthood behind bars has given him a new appreciation for the "little" things of life. After a trip to attend a recent Los Angeles court hearing Rosenkrantz remarked in awe to one of his friends: "I saw the ocean today." ▼

Governor Davis's public comment line is (916) 445-2841. He can be faxed at (916) 445-4633, or e-mailed at GrayDavis@governor.ca.gov.



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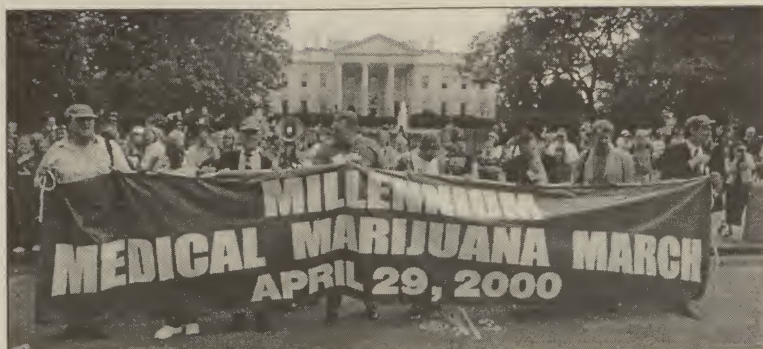
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Participants in the Millennium Medical Marijuana March in Washington, D.C., last Saturday, April 29.

March for medical marijuana in SF and worldwide this Sat.

by Liz Highleyman

This Saturday, May 6, medical marijuana advocates, proponents of industrial hemp, opponents of the government's war on drugs, and those who simply enjoy partaking of the cannabis plant will gather in cities throughout the U.S. and the world for the Millennium Marijuana March.

Locally, participants will gather at San Francisco's United Nations Plaza Saturday afternoon for a rally and dance party.

Rather than attempting to bring tens of thousands of people together in a single location, the marijuana events will be widely distributed, taking place in at least

90 cities, in some 20 countries, and on six continents.

Although annual marijuana marches have been held in previous years, beginning with the May 1998 Million Marijuana March in New York City, this year's event has received more publicity and includes more participating cities. In addition to events in large cities such as New York, Amsterdam, Berlin, and London, marchers also will come together in smaller cities less known for progressive activism and counterculture, such as Des Moines, Iowa; St. Petersburg, Florida; Tel Aviv, Israel; and Christchurch, New Zealand. Most events will include a march and rally; some also will feature musical events, direct action, and celebrity speakers.

Organizers of the event include the Coalition Against Marijuana Prohibition, the Cannabis Action Network, and Cures Not Wars, an organization that, in addition to marijuana, promotes the use of ibogaine, an extract from a South American plant that reportedly helps reduce cravings and treats addiction to substances such as heroin and nicotine.

Last Saturday, April 29, some of the same organizers held a separate march in Washington, D.C., focusing on medicinal cannabis. The Millennium Medical Marijuana March comes at a time when several U.S. states have approved medical marijuana initiatives similar to California's Proposition 215, passed by the state's

voters in 1996, and an increasing number of scientists and politicians are calling for more study of the medical benefits of the plant.

The accompanying rally last weekend featured Bay Area speakers Terence Hallinan, district attorney of San Francisco; Jeff Jones, executive director of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative; and Dr. Donald Abrams, of the University of California at San Francisco, who is directing a federally sponsored study on the use of medical marijuana with protease inhibitors by people with HIV.

Last week's march coincided with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender Millennium March on Washington. The sponsors of the two marches endorsed each other's events, although the MMOW board of directors did not add medical marijuana to its already-controversial platform.

Locally, the San Francisco Millennium Marijuana March events this Saturday will begin with a pot pride rally at "high noon" at United Nations Plaza on Market Street. Speakers will include author and marijuana activist Chris Conrad, Dale Gieringer of the California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, and Julia Carter of the Drug Peace Campaign. There also will be an all-day techno dance party, a drum circle, and information tables.

A march will begin at 4:20 p.m.—a number widely associated with marijuana use and cannabis culture. ▼

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NATIONAL NEWS

Gay, lesbian journalists spout off in Washington

by Bob Roehr

Gay and lesbian journalists provided spirited discussion at a forum at the National Press Club, last Thursday, April 27. The event, sponsored by the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, took place as reporters were in town for the Millennium March on Washington.

"I don't think that any president has ever put us in such a favorable light, in terms of rhetoric," than Bill Clinton, said irascible columnist Andrew Sullivan. "However, I think it is also true that no president in history has ever done as much tangible damage to gay people, signing the Defense of Marriage Act, throwing more than twice as many people out of the military as his predecessors."

"We have to distinguish between nice rhetoric and giving jobs to people who give you money... and then shaft the gay agenda at every possible opportunity," Sullivan continued. "That is the Clinton-Gore strategy. I don't see any reason why it will not continue to be so."

Sullivan thought there was "no huge difference" between what Al Gore or George Bush would do as president on gay specific issues. But he did concede that Gore would be "probably marginally" better, "because of the military issue."

"Well, duh," said Lisa Keen, editor of the *Washington Blade* and *New York Blade*. "I have no doubt that there is a very big difference for us between a President Gore and a President Bush. The difference is, with a President Gore we will have a seat at the table. Maybe it is not the best seat at the table, but it is a seat at the table. With Bush, we barely have our foot in the door."

"If George Bush is elected president, the welcome mat at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue will be snatched away," said Jonathan Capehart, leader of the Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial team at the *New York Daily News*.

Detroit News columnist Deb Price saw "a huge difference" between the two candidates. But she also was impressed with Bush's reaching out to gay and lesbian Republicans "in such a gracious way." She was moved by the fact that at the news conference that followed the meeting, "For a man who is not eloquent, he [Bush] was quite eloquent." Price called the change in tone "very, very significant."

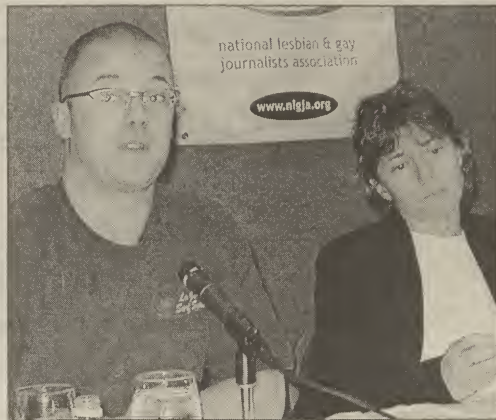
Marriage

"Marriage is such a hot button word that people get irrational," said Capehart. If Vermont can give same-sex couples all of the benefits without using the word, then "I don't see how I could be against that."

Sullivan raised the Supreme Court decision of *Loving v. Virginia*, which struck down the ban on interracial marriages as unconstitutional. He asked Capehart, who is African American: In 1967, "would you have been happy calling interracial marriage domestic partnership?"

Capehart stumbled, but finally answered, "No."

"So you think that the right to



Gay journalists Andrew Sullivan and Lisa Keen spoke about the state of the LGBT movement in Washington, D.C.

interracial marriage is a deeper one than the right to same-sex marriage?" Sullivan continued.

"It may not be a deeper one but it certainly is an easier one to get across to the country at this moment," interjected moderator Charles Kaiser, author of the popular history of New York City, *The Gay Metropolis*.

"This is something we really need to ask for," said Sullivan. "It is a fundamental part of citizenship that is invested in the Declaration of Independence and equality under the law."

"If you actually believe that you might take it seriously instead of this constant apologizing for what is this most basic civil right," Sullivan accused the Human Rights Campaign of being "scared" of marriage. "They need to get over their fears and lack of self-esteem on this matter and demand it."

He said, "The only reason why we got civil unions in Vermont is because we asked for marriage."

Price and her partner Joyce celebrated their 10th anniversary by applying to the state of Maryland for a marriage license, and of course were refused. "Five years later we will be going to Vermont to be parties to a civil union," Price said.

Community

"I get a little fed up with my 40-something friends who say, 'Why do we need to march again?' who have forgotten how exhilarating it was to us [when we were] in our 20s," said Kaiser.

All agreed that it is always positive for gay people to get together in large numbers. There is something "empowering" about such gatherings, said Keen. Sullivan called the culture "post-march. The question is whether marching as such is a relevant tool at this particular moment."

Kaiser said the Internet is "a revolutionary tool," especially for gay and lesbian people "in the hinterlands." He believes "it is changing gay life at least as much as it is changing life in the rest of the country."

"This is why the march is passé," said Sullivan. "A march used to be the method by which gay people realized that other gay people existed." LGBTs now do that on the Web. "So in some ways the March on Washington has been happening on the Web for

page 23 ►

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Randy Rush and Sue DeYoung, of Manassas, Virginia, were among the 3,000 couples who participated in the mass same-sex "wedding" last Saturday, April 29, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Couples stage mass 'wedding' in D.C.

by Bob Roehr

The Reverend Jimmy Creech was speaking to those gathered for "The Wedding" on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, last Saturday, April 29, during the weekend of the Millennium March on Washington. "There is no power on this earth, no government, no church, no synagogue, no temple, no institution, no custom that has the authority to tell you who you cannot love.

"It is your love that creates your marriage." He called it a gift from God.

Creech, defrocked by the United Methodist Church for performing same-sex holy unions, spoke of how he had ministered to gays and lesbians who first had to overcome "their own sense of unworthiness" instilled by society. Once they were able to affirm themselves as individuals, they were able to reach out and connect with one another.

He said that the divine reality, whatever name we use or tradition we follow, has placed within us the capacity to love. It is not for society to dictate but for us to discover "the one in whose eyes you find paradise." Creech urged them to "love your lovers and love yourselves for you are God's creation."

The Reverend Troy Perry delighted the crowd of more than 3,000 couples with the sweet fact that earlier in the week Vermont had enacted the first civil unions for same sex couples. The leader of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community

Churches, which hosted the April 29 event, promised that "one day we will be able to marry legally, because we will continue this struggle" until we do.

Rabbi Jane Litman of San Francisco recalled the television program *Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?*, as well as a visit from a young woman who wanted to marry her Jewish boyfriend of five months because she was pregnant, and the passage of Proposition 22, the Knight initiative in California meant to "defend" marriage. "I ask you, who is cheapening, who is weakening the institution of marriage?"

"In our society, it isn't queer people who are threatening the sacred act of union," she said. "If America wants to defend marriage, it should do it from commercial exploitation, from impulsive decisions, and social coercion, not from us. We believe in marriage. We take it seriously. We will fight for our right to be married."

Litman compared the March 29 decision by Reform Judaism, to allow rabbis to officiate at same-sex weddings, with Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. To her, both are "a nexus point in history when the events around them briefly freeze into timelessness."

To celebrate "The Wedding," MCC sought out couples who had been together the longest and were willing to participate in the public ceremony. Flo Gibbons and Bobby Sherwin met in a Toronto pub in 1957 and have been together ever since, some 42 years. Gibbons credited it to "respect, love, under-

standing, and communication."

The Reverend Ralph Lasher said that the years together with his partner, Harry Gibson, were largely the result of Gibson's "stability and determination." He let the crowd in on the secret of where they met - the infamous Everard Baths in Manhattan. That prompted Perry to say, "It just proves you can meet at the strangest places, and 45 years [later] still be together."

The Reverend Darlene C. Garner spoke of the biblical story of Ruth and Naomi. "Do not ask me to leave you ... for where you go, I will go, and where you live, I will live," she recounted. While in I Samuel, David professed, "His love for Jonathan surpassed the love he had for the opposite sex."

"We stand before our nation and our friends because we wish to proclaim our right to love one another," said Perry. "We do not take this proclamation [of our love] lightly, but reverently, discretely, soberly." He asked the couples gathered on the plaza below to each tell the other why they love them and why the ceremony is important to them.

Each then gave a symbol of their commitment to the other. Perry asked them to repeat, "I give you this gift as a token of our covenant, vowing to live together in close friendship and in love. To strive for fuller knowledge of your being. To care for you above all others. I pledge myself to recognize your needs and encourage your full potential. And to love you even as I love myself." ▼



Officiating at the mass same-sex "wedding" ceremony last Saturday in Washington, D.C., were, from left, Reverends Darlene Garner, Troy Perry, Phillip DeBleck, and Rabbi Jane Litman.



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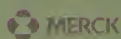
■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor. For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

¹ Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

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Please read this information before you start taking CRIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIVAN?

CRIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIVAN work?

CRIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIVAN.

CRIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIVAN:

1. Take CRIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor. Continue taking CRIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
 2. Take CRIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day. It may be easier to remember to take CRIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
 3. If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time. However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIVAN at any one time.
 4. Take CRIVAN with water. You can also take CRIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
 5. Ideally, take each dose of CRIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal. Or you can take CRIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
- Do not take CRIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day. CRIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIVAN?

Do not take CRIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
 - Problems with your kidneys.
 - Diabetes
 - Hemophilia
 - High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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Can CRIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPULSID® (cisapride)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

Taking CRIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	EPIMIR® (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)	isoniazid (INH)
BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)
BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	Methadone
VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.	
MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIVAN.	

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIVAN.
RESCRIPTOR® (delavirdine) — If you take CRIVAN with RESCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIVAN.
SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIVAN.
SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) — If you take CRIVAN with SUSTIVA®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

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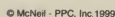


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MERCK & CO., INC.
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by Bob Roehr

HRC's Winnie Stachelberg, left, and Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) spoke to gay journalists.





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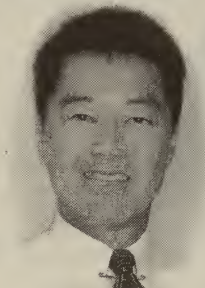
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School kids hold gay pride day



Students at San Francisco's Clarendon School held a gay pride day Monday, May 1. At an assembly, the kids talked about famous gay and lesbian people, and their contributions to society.

Millennium March

◀ page 1

enough lead-time to fit it into their calendars. It was enough to make George W. Bush's recent live appearance at a news conference with gay Republicans look like, well... like leadership.

The promoters said that 800,000 people attended the event. Yeah, and every "HotJock" on the Internet is VGL and has 10 inches.

Based on this reporter's attendance at innumerable events on that sward of the Mall since 1971 - including the Million Man March, Promise Keepers, 4th of July festivities, and the three other LGBT marches - the real attendance was about half of that at the

1993 MOW.

The MMOW board said the event was a success, and who is to dispute it. The purpose and goals were so fuzzy, so new agey - essentially to let a new generation have the "experience" of a march - that only a total debacle would not have fit the bill.

As the sun slipped lower into the afternoon sky, they still were begging for bucks from the stage to pay for the fest. A claim of a \$100,000 shortfall was bandied about. Was it the truth, or just another fundraising ploy? It was hard to say, as the organization never opened its books to the community, despite being continuously asked to do so over the last year.

One promise built into the MMOW "budget" was distribution of \$500,000 in "profits" to

LGBT organizations after the event. Let's see if those checks ever get cut. Or will there be a sea of red ink as there was with the last Gay Games and Stonewall 25. That may be the only hard measurement we have of the MMOW.

Did lots of people have fun? Sure. But you can have fun at a dance club, picnic, or just sitting around the tube with friends, you don't need a Jumbotron on the Mall.

Will it have any major impact on the gay community? Scores of people will feel better about themselves for having come, and others will pledge to work with a community organization. But the reason for having the event in Washington and not elsewhere is politics. And on that count, little was accomplished. ▼

ACT UP/SF

◀ page 1

questions about the trust.

The four other trustees listed on the deed did not return calls seeking comment, and the lien holder listed on GTT Trust's \$800,000 promissory note, San Francisco venture capitalist Robert D. Leppo, also did not return calls.

"They all signed this paper saying they own this building," commented Mike Donnelly of Survive AIDS, the nonprofit AIDS treatment activist group formerly known as ACT UP/Golden Gate. Donnelly himself has researched ACT UP/San Francisco's financial records. "How can they deny that it exists when it's right there in black and white?"

ACT UP/San Francisco's repeated refusals to comment on the formation of the trust apparently conflicts with the group's oft-repeated assertions that its "books are open" to public inspection.

"ACT UP/San Francisco Community Space," reads the sign over the gated entrance to the group's headquarters.

Last October, when the B.A.R. asked to see the group's financial records, a one-page printout was furnished for visual inspection, though no copies were permitted.

At the time, evidently while in the midst of forming GTT Trust and purchasing the building, Bellefontaine said that ACT UP/San Francisco was an unincorporated group, and had a five-year lease on the building.

He also stated that the group's pot club, which opened for business in September 1998, had 1,300 regular clients. In its first year ending in August 1999, these patrons



Michael Bellefontaine was hauled out of a Stop AIDS forum in 1996.

of the club gave ACT UP/San Francisco a total gross income of \$1,431,486, according to Bellefontaine.

One of several medical marijuana dispensaries currently operating in San Francisco, ACT UP/San Francisco's medical marijuana business was made possible by the passage of Proposition 215 by California voters in 1996.

Other clubs, such as Cannabis Helping Alleviate Medical Problems on Church Street, and the San Francisco Patients' Resource Center on Divisadero Street, have either formed tax-exempt nonprofit corporations or are functioning under the fiscal umbrella of existing nonprofits, and are therefore legally required to adhere to certain restrictions on their political activities unrelated to their charitable purpose, as well as to disclosure laws concerning expenditure of funds.

There is no legal requirement, however, that a group involved in

the sale of medical marijuana register as a nonprofit organization. It is a largely unregulated industry.

"Some of the difficulty you get into with Proposition 215, is that it doesn't really provide a means of dispensation," St. Pierre told the B.A.R.

It is unclear why ACT UP/San Francisco chose to form a business trust, or why they chose to purchase the building, or whether the decision to form GTT Trust was made at one of their weekly public meetings.

By forming a trust, however, the AIDS dissident group prevents prying eyes from reviewing details of their financial records. It also protects their ability to spend unrestricted money on their political activities, including their almost universally discounted campaigns to convince people that HIV does not cause AIDS, that people should not take the HIV test, that Western medicines are actually designed to kill people, and that public health efforts to control the spread of HIV are actually designed to curtail gay sex, amongst other theories.

"Obviously they've been trying to hide something," commented Donnelly, whose group has been at odds with ACT UP/San Francisco for years.

Asked to comment on why his group, which incessantly proclaims that HIV does not cause AIDS, or that "AIDS is over," was profiting from the sale of marijuana to people with HIV/AIDS, Bellefontaine offered an interesting analysis.

"If people believe in HIV, and they're buying pot from us, it is in fact them that are the hypocrites, not us for selling to a community that professes to need it," Bellefontaine told the B.A.R. ▼



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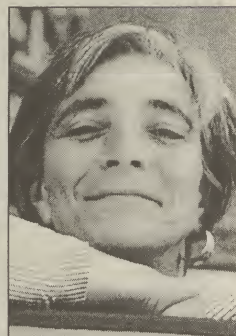
by Terry Beswick

Bill Barnes resigned his position as the Mayor Willie Brown's second advisor on HIV/AIDS, effective May 1, and has taken a job as program manager with the Neighborhood Parks Council, a nonprofit association representing the interests of 70 park groups citywide.

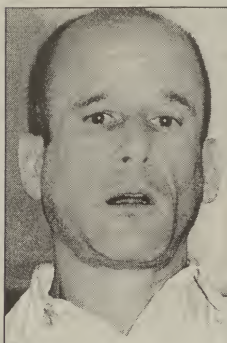
Meanwhile, Dana Van Gorder, who left his part-time position as gay and lesbian health services coordinator at the San Francisco Department of Public Health last October 1 to take a job with the Airport Commission, recently moved over to a policy job at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.



Bill Barnes



Kate Monico Klein



Dana Van Gorder

took exception with the "recent rantings of AIDS revisionists," which are "not supported by the available scientific research, fail to withstand the scrutiny of critical analysis, and are harmful to persons living with HIV." Barnes told the *B.A.R.* that countering local activists who proclaim that HIV does not cause AIDS "has been the single most frustrating thing in the two years that I worked for Mayor Brown."

Barnes, who is HIV-positive, said that he will continue to serve on the HIV Prevention Planning Council, an advisory group to the Department of Public Health, as an unaffiliated member.

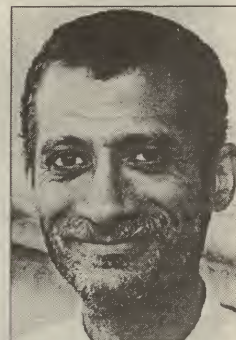
"The mayor is committed to keeping the office open," Barnes stated.

Meanwhile, the gay and lesbian health services coordinator position at DPH, formerly held by Van Gorder, remains without a permanent replacement due a department-wide hiring freeze, and according to health department spokeswoman Eileen Shields, there is no commitment to maintaining the position.

"So many people are doing two and three jobs," said Shields. "I guess as times get better, [Dr.] Mitch [Katz, DPH director] will look at the priorities and determine whether to fill the position."

At the time of his departure from DPH, Van Gorder had called for strengthening the post and making it full-time.

Instead, the position's responsibilities have been absorbed in part by Kate Monico Klein, the department's women's health coordinator, and Van Gorder's former supervisor, Norm Nickens, DPH's deputy director for equal employment opportunity, affirmative action, and cultural competency.



Norm Nickens

Nickens said that he and Monico Klein currently are working to follow-up on the recommendations that came out of the recent lesbian health forum.

As SFAF's state policy director, Van Gorder replaces Fred Dillon, who was promoted to public policy director when the position was vacated by Regina Aragon a few months ago. ▽

Racial justice compromised DWB bill watered down for Gov. Davis

by Katie Szymanski

About 1,000 people - including many youth from the still-charged but unsuccessful No on Proposition 21 effort - stormed the state capitol for "Racial Justice Day" last Thursday, April 27 to demand that Governor Gray Davis sign SB1389, a bill intended to document racial profiling by the police.

Driving while Black or Brown - or DWB - is the nickname for racially-motivated police stops and vehicle searches that occur all over the country. SB1389, sponsored by state Senator Kevin Murray (D-Los Angeles), would have required that data be collected on the race and ethnicity of motorists stopped by police so that evidence of racial profiling could exist and

the problem could be addressed.

Because Davis vetoed a similar measure last year, the crowd at last Thursday's demonstration went wild when they heard the news that the governor intended to sign this year's bill. However, the enthusiasm quickly dampened when it was learned that a compromise bill - one which means virtually nothing - is headed to the governor's desk instead of Murray's original legislation.

The compromise bill states that racial profiling is illegal (it already is, anyway), requires that officers be given diversity training, and lastly, and perhaps most insulting, requires that officers give their business card to any motorist they stop but do not cite. There is no longer a provision in the bill for racial data to be collected, due to Davis's feeling that racial profil-

ing is not a widespread problem in California. The collection of data, however, could have proved him wrong if given the chance.

The watered down DWB bill was met with anger by community activists who have fought for years to get racial profiling recognized. Organizers of Racial Justice Day called the compromise a "betrayal," and blamed both Davis and Murray for buckling under pressure.

"We don't need a bill outlawing something that is already illegal, and we don't need police officer's business card when we are stopped on the basis of race," said Michelle Alexander of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California. "What we demand is police accountability. We demand data collection that will allow us to prove discriminatory police practices." ▽

Carrying the torch

NGLTF announces new executive director

by Katie Szymanski

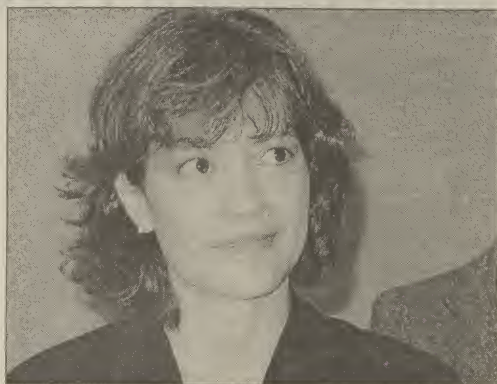
She's a grassroots organizer, a feminist, and an experienced fundraiser. Even more importantly to National Gay and Lesbian Task Force loyalists, she has promised to continue to keep transgenders, bisexuals, and people of color at the forefront of the movement.

She's Elizabeth Toledo, named executive director of NGLTF on April 20 to replace the ever-popular Kerry Lobel, who announced her resignation last December and stepped down last month to pursue other projects.

Toledo, a Latina lesbian who is also a mother, comes to NGLTF from her most recent position as vice president of the National Organization for Women, where she was directly responsible for bringing in \$1 million from new funding sources as well as organizing new facets of the women's community.

NGLTF officials, citing her ties to various sectors and her commitment to inclusion, consider Toledo "a perfect match" for the organization, and Toledo couldn't agree more.

"NGLTF is the recognized leader in grassroots political activity in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender movement," said Toledo in a statement issued last



New NGLTF Executive Director Elizabeth Toledo.

week. "I bring to NGLTF a commitment to grassroots training, organizing and mobilization."

Toledo's goals for NGLTF include strengthening the LGBT infrastructure in all 50 states and on the national level, and expanding financial support by tapping into new audiences and allies.

"Our movement for justice for the LGBT community has a shining future," according to Toledo.

NGLTF, the self-described "think tank" of the LGBT movement, fights for civil rights by building bridges, organizing communities, and advocating for fair

public policies. The organization most recently launched a "Make Your Family Count" Census 2000 campaign, and hosts the popular Creating Change conference, the largest annual gathering of LGBT activists in the country. At last year's Creating Change conference in Oakland, activists protested the Oakland Police Department's treatment of a transgender person, which resulted in a complete revamping of Oakland police policies, including the addition of a LGBT liaison and diversity training for officers.

Toledo will begin her term as NGLTF's new executive director on June 1. ▼

right fulfills that role for gay organizations. Sullivan called that "politically counterproductive" because it inhibits building bridges to segments of the diverse religious fundamentalist community that could be supportive of gay issues.

Price said that the meeting last fall between Reverend Mel White and Reverend Jerry Falwell stimulated many evangelicals "to start thinking about gay people in a new way."

She found "incredibly exciting" polling data showing that 73 percent of evangelical Christians support the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the workplace. "If we focus on common ground, it seems to me we can move forward." ▼

Gay journalists

◀ page 15

three or four years now."

Price did not minimize the impact of the Internet but she added, "There is something very uplifting about being around other gay people" that she doesn't get in cyberspace.

Sullivan railed against money. "One is never asked by HRC to come and talk about the issues, one is asked, 'Who do you know in Hollywood who can give us some money?' It is all about shoveling money out of gay pockets into the Democratic Party or these organizations."

He said that fundraising "requires demons," and the religious

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Drug holiday forum gets record crowd

by Jeff Getty, Survive
AIDS Writers Pool

It seems that the HIV community is abuzz with rumors and discussions about the possibility of stopping one's drugs - taking a holiday from the meds, and then resuming treatment. Strategic drug interruption, as it is called by the experts, was the popular topic at a joint Project Inform and Survive AIDS community forum held Monday, April 19, in San Francisco.

Though organizers were expecting some public interest, they were surprised to see over 150 persons attend the STI forum. According to event coordinator, Judy Leahy, the heavy turnout of the event made it the second best-attended forum she has ever put on. Survive AIDS' Hank Wilson said the event was remarkable, reminding him of the first HIV community forums of the mid-1980s.

So what's all the fuss about? Anyone taking HIV medications knows that sooner or later he or she must eventually stop the drugs or switch to a different combination. Such interruptions in therapy are common and have been ongoing since treatments became available. But in the last year a fair amount of data has surfaced about the effects of stopping and restarting medications. And some of the data indicates that STI might even be a good thing. Given that anyone taking HIV meds long-term would likely want to take a break, but do so in a careful and controlled way, it's not hard to see why STI has become the hottest topic in today's HIV population.

At the recent retrovirus conference no less than 17 abstracts appeared discussing STI. It seems that HIV researchers are on the trail to STI discovery as well. Given all the recent findings, Leahy and others carefully selected an appropriate forum panel. Featured speakers at the event were the University of California, San Francisco's Dr. Steven Deeks, who has recently published STI data; Dr. Jeff Harris, an immunologist who studies STI; Project Inform's Ben Cheng and Martin Delaney; and Survive AIDS' Matt Sharp.

The medical experts presented and discussed recent findings about STI. Deeks' own study which involved virologic failures (folks who could not get their virus under control with available meds) showed that stopping drugs for 12 weeks led to increased viral load and lowering T-cells. But Deeks also discovered that many of his patients' virus reverted to "wild strain" - meaning the virus became more like it used to be, before ever being treated. This finding was most tantalizing since a patient may be able to "reset" his virus to wild strain and then possibly have good results when resuming treatment. Deeks' findings indicated that wild virus was likely more "fit" and therefore could cause more havoc to the immune system.

Havoc or stimulation? Though

Deeks' findings do not bode well for late-stage AIDS patients, the idea of allowing the HIV virus to fully impact the immune system without any drug-related suppression has some scientists excited. One abstract from Massachusetts General found that patients who went off drugs and then restarted, had increased cytotoxic T lymphocytic (CTL) activity against HIV. Other studies have both verified and disproved these findings. This "vaccine" effect has many patients and doctors intrigued. Could stopping drugs lead to better immune response further down the road? Perhaps, but in what population and by what guidelines?

Harris mentioned that he is currently enrolling a new study to find out what parameters one should follow if planning a STI. Harris found the forum to be very interesting. "It came off quite well with a lot of personal stories being told about individual STI," Harris said. But Harris is worried about self-experimentation and is rushing to find some answers. In his study, patients are being recruited who were otherwise going to go off medications - he is not encouraging anyone to suddenly stop their meds. Study participants should not ever have had a T-cell count below 100 (<100 nadir) and have some idea what their highest viral load count was. Given previous data, Harris expects to see nadir T-cell counts and all-time-high viral loads occurring when patients are off drugs. Patients may require additional OI prophylaxis when T-cells drop.

Recent published findings from Dr. Richard Price's San Francisco STI patient group also showed that some patients experience 2 or 3 log increases in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) HIV RNA levels, meaning that STI could lead to major HIV infiltration of the central nervous system. Along with increased HIV, Price found increased white blood cell levels in CSF, meaning more inflammatory response (some believe this process could be one of the causes of dementia). Such possibilities should not be taken lightly. Two patients from the forum audience mentioned that when on STI, they saw signs of returning dementia. "I can tell you this, we are certainly going to encourage our patients to get lumbar taps [to check spinal fluid] as part of Dr. Price's ongoing study, in our study," said Harris.

Delaney presented slides explaining why and when a patient might consider a drug holiday. He reasoned that patients might want to let their bodies rest and heal, or create a vaccine effect on the immune system, or that some patients have to stop their meds because of drug side effects. As usual, Delaney's Project Inform approach was to weigh the pros and cons of STI and leave it up to the patients and doctors to decide the best strategy. "Marty's handouts were quite informative and helpful," remarked panelist Sharp. Neither Delaney nor the other panelists recommended STI regimens at this early stage. All agreed that more information is needed to discover likely safe parameters

for drug interruption.

During the nearly two-hour forum over 30 questions were fielded from audience members. Leahy remarked that a lot of the questions came from people who were either thinking about taking a drug holiday or had already stopped meds for one reason or another. Wilson and others were very interested in gathering anecdotal information from people who have attempted a STI and have begun re-treating. "We want to know what their numbers [T-cell and viral load] were before, during, and after STI," said Wilson. Wilson encouraged patients who have stopped and restarted meds to call Survive AIDS at (415) 252-9200 and leave a message for him. Wilson will then call the person back and take down their information regarding personal STI. "This way we get to study our own data from a large cohort," said Wilson.

Project Inform's Cheng mentioned that other physicians are gathering experience data from at least eight large cohorts of patients from around the country. "We are going to start having some better answers soon," Wilson remarked.

Planning a drug holiday?

Deeks and others remind us that late-stage AIDS patients would be taking huge risks by going off medications (healthier patients face less risks). But in some cases one must stop treatment due to severe toxicities or treatment failure. In these cases there can be a brief holiday or washout between ending old drugs and starting new ones. Deeks cautioned that one should be checking their T-cells and viral load every two weeks during drug interruption. As soon as viral load appears and T-cells begin to drop, he recommends restarting new therapies. But if their is no cause to stop, and one's old drugs appear to be working, Deeks thinks it would not be wise to stop therapy. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," Deeks recently told reporter Bruce Mirken.

Patients and doctors planning STI also can contact Harris at (415) 695-3818, ext. 1, for consultation advice. Harris likely will have emerging data in coming months that may be essential to know in STI planning. Patients interested in joining Harris's study can call the above number or e-mail him at jharris@itsa.ucsf.edu. To get copies of Delaney's handouts call Project Inform's hotline at (800) 822-7422.

Wilson reminded people that one good reason to stop drugs is because some people will feel much better. "This is something that the experts always fail to mention," he said. Wilson's candor correctly surmises why most patients want to initiate STI in the first place. The drugs are nasty and cannot be tolerated indefinitely. If taking a break doesn't hurt, and may even help, expect this new trend to take hold quickly. But it will most likely be up to pure researchers and the community to find out what is the best and safest way to go about it.

"Don't expect the drug companies to fund research about stopping medications anytime soon," mentioned both Sharp and Delaney at the forum. ▼

OBITUARIES

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Kevin Boyd

January 21, 1961 — April 15, 2000



On Saturday, April 15, Kevin Boyd, our Brother and Friend, passed away in his sleep at his home in Berkeley from complications of diabetes. Our Community has lost a truly wonderful and loving member and we are all deeply saddened by his death.

Kevin was a fine artist, an active member of the leather community, Vice-Chairman of the 15 Association, and an initiate of the Micon Order. Originally from Indiana, Kevin relocated to the Bay Area, where he was better able to explore his diverse interests. A ferocious backgammon player, avid reader, and music lover, he was looking forward to attending several concerts at the time of his death.

Kevin is survived by his son Jeremy, mother Betty, sisters Terry and Gina, and brothers David and Steven. He will be greatly missed by his close friends Bob and Howard, all his brothers in The 15, and the many people who loved him.

Celebrate his life the way he would have wanted: live to the fullest and fol-

low your dreams.

Kevin, Buddy, you will be deeply missed and we will always love you. "... never let go of this fiery sadness called desire."

For further information, please call (415) 703-0346.

Marjorie S. DeRemer

Marjorie DeRemer passed away peacefully in Redwood City on April 26, 2000 after a long and exceptional life.

Marjorie, originally from Denver, Colorado, was the original and long-time owner of the popular Toad Hall during the halcyon days of Castro Street. The club was a favorite gathering place from the beginning and helped spark the early magic of the Castro. A home away from home for many, Toad Hall sponsored gay softball leagues and numerous other social and fundraising activities throughout its many thriving years.

She later helped to open The Answer, the largest gay dance club on the San Francisco Peninsula. The Answer brought high-tech disco to Redwood City in the mid-Seventies, providing a warm, friendly ambience for legions of gay men and women and their friends.

Marjorie is survived by her loving son, Danny, and her dear, long-time friends and companions, Charles and Anthony. Also surviving are the happy memories of thousands who enjoyed Toad Hall and The Answer during those exhilarating yet slightly more innocent younger days.

Marjorie's ashes will be cast at sea during a private ceremony.

Matthew Hartley

July 16, 1967 — April 27, 2000



Matthew died at his home in Winters, California with his mother at his side. He was diagnosed with cancer in October 1999, and has been a long-term survivor of HIV for over 12 years.

Matthew was born in Troy, Ohio and moved to Clearwater, Florida in 1976 after the death of his father.

Matthew is known throughout Colusa, Yolo and Sacramento counties for his work with youth on HIV education.

He had an avid interest in promoting knowledge of the AIDS Memorial Quilt and was instrumental in its display in Sacramento and Winters. He volunteered with the Sacramento AIDS Foundation and was a board member of Northern California AIDS Consortium (NCAC).

Matthew was the youngest of seven children and is survived by his mother Ruth Helen Hartley; brothers Steven, Michael, and Jeffrey; sisters Rachael Jacobs, Rebecca Fleck, and Jennifer Trotter; grandmother Nellie Alberta Hartley, and his companion Paul Kastner.

A memorial celebration of his life will be held at his home in Winters, California on Saturday, May 6. For further information, please call (530) 795-4062.

Go in peace with yourself Matthew. You are a wonderful, full-of-life person — no matter which world you are in. We love you.

Thomas "Thom" Patton

Thomas "Thom" Patton died at dawn on Palm Sunday, April 16, after a brief illness. Holding his hand as he drew his last breath was Craig Zimmerman, his life partner for 25 years. Thom had been recovering at his Sebastopol home from surgery on a recently discovered cranial aneurysm when he was stricken.

Thom was born September 1, 1952 in Indianapolis where he lived until 1975 when he and Craig made their first home together in Fort Wayne. San Francisco beckoned and they soon moved to the City by the Bay. For many years, Thom divided his time between homes in San Francisco and Sebastopol. He was employed by Pacific Bell and later as a gardener.

Thom was a compassionate and loving man and that love was magnified back on him throughout his life. His favorite affirmation was "I am richly blessed and highly flavored!" He expressed himself beautifully and exuberantly through dancing, gardening and his home.

Besides Craig, Thom is survived by his devoted companion Richard Ramming, three sisters and three brothers, numerous nieces and nephews, and many friends both old and new.

A memorial service and celebration of Thom's life will be held on Saturday, May 20. Memorial contributions may be made to the Polycystic Kidney Research Foundation. Call Craig at (707) 829-1727 for more information.



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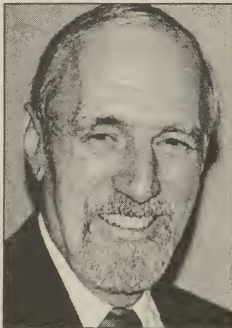
Frontiers publisher Bob Craig dies

by Cynthia Laird

Robert (Bob) Fenton Craig Jr., the longtime publisher of *Frontiers* News magazine, died of AIDS-related complications last Friday, April 28 at Midway Medical Center in Los Angeles. He was 65.

Frontiers, published in Los Angeles and distributed in L.A. and San Francisco, is expected to continue publishing as usual; the magazine comes out every other week in the Bay Area.

Mr. Craig was instrumental in the founding of the now-defunct Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality in 1986. He remained on the board for many years and eventually became co-chair until 1997. The California Alliance for Pride and Equality was started last year to replace the



Bob Craig

LIFE Lobby, and Mr. Craig supported that organization.

Born May 22, 1934, in Los Angeles, Mr. Craig attended North Hollywood High School and the

University of Southern California. Before entering college, he served for four years in the U.S. Air Force, where he was assigned as a MP.

According to *Frontiers* Web site, the Stonewall riots in 1969 propelled Mr. Craig into action, and over the years, while he was recognized as a businessman, he was best known and respected for his activism and leadership on gay rights and AIDS issues.

In 1974, Mr. Craig invested in his first gay bar, The Hayloft, which became an institution and a place where gay men could meet and enjoy nightly movie entertainment.

In 1978, Mr. Craig founded the Valley Business Alliance, now renamed the Los Angeles Business Alliance, a gay and lesbian chamber of commerce that brought together many LGBT business own-

next page ►

AIDS advocate Chuck Frutchey dies

by Cynthia Laird

Chuck Frutchey, former president of the board for the Stop AIDS Project and a co-founder of the Coalition for Healthy Sex, died Friday, April 21. He was 46.

Mr. Frutchey was a huge presence in everything he did, friends and colleagues said.

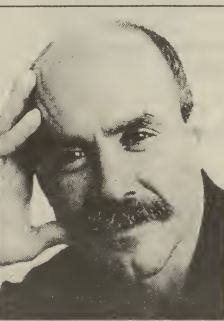
Born August 12, 1953 and raised in Farmington, Michigan, Mr. Frutchey was blessed with a brilliant mind, strong will, the clearest of visions, and a sweet and caring soul. Self-taught, he gave

up college scholarships and pursued life as a gay man.

One of the best and brightest in HIV prevention, Mr. Frutchey was among the earliest volunteers with what became the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. In 1984, he began coordinating the hotline and later became education director.

As creator of the "Buddy Connection," Mr. Frutchey made healthy sex exciting, caring, and sane for thousands of men during the early years of the epidemic. He fought HIV with a combination of commitment, verve, compassion, lack of tolerance for victimization,

page 27 ►



Chuck Frutchey

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Why Rome fell

by Jim Provenzano

Are you not entertained?" Russell Crowe screams at a peak moment in the hot new Ridley Scott epic, *Gladiator*, opening at an octoplex near you.

Leather straps. Sandals. Skirts. What manly activity.

Details magazine, in an extensive piece in its May ish, reports on a group of macho men in Milan who, between cell phoning each other on their mopeds, doff their designer duds and engage in some live combat after their work days as lab technicians and lawyers.

And you thought you were a weekend warrior for merely engaging in a bit of park Frisbee? Here's a hobby that comes with more required uniform gear than a hockey player and half the Museum of History, and no doubt an extensive injury waiver form.

Led by instructor Dario Battaglia, dozens of hunky students, distantly related to real Roman-era gladiators, partake in a sort of live archeology exhibit. They hope to explore the history of this violent bloody sport by putting theory into practice. Occasionally a 21st-century warrior's really injured, but not too often.

Only in the past hundred years or so has sport been considered a non-fatal activity. Despite the recent roster of pro football players merging with the inmates of Fol-

som Prison, NFL officials have been scolded into no longer using terms like "sudden death" and "kill zone." Players have been told not to use the throat-cutting gesture. Wouldn't want to give the kiddies the wrong impression.

The current issue of *Miramax's* hype front mag *Talk* blabs on about *Gladiator* star Russell Crowe's recent film merits, omitting the fact that his first major role after *Romper Stomper* was as a gay rugby player in *The Sum of Us*. Remember, folks, touch rugby will be included in Gay Games VI.

Start saving those Aussie dollars now. That's a sport with a low-budget uniform. Short shorts and cleats. Woof.

But did you know that Crowe's first major stage role was in *The Rocky Horror Show*? Nope, not as Brad "asshole" Majors or even Rocky, but transsexual transgender trans-alien Frank N. Furter. Now there's a show worth seeing. Perhaps that explains why Rusty's still quite single. As a veteran of a small town Rocky cast, I can attest to the sexual perspective-altering effect of memorizing that screenplay.

Not that Crowe, or any celeb in the gladiatorium, couldn't get gals, if he chooses that route. Those that took a liking for the younger male whelps who dressed them up and down also got a bit of action in those Jove-ian days.

So what if they didn't have in-

door plumbing? So what if you occasionally became a fancy feast for the tigers? If you lived, you could make a ton of bucks, and buy your way out of slavery, which is more than any of us cubicleans can hope for.

Heavy medal

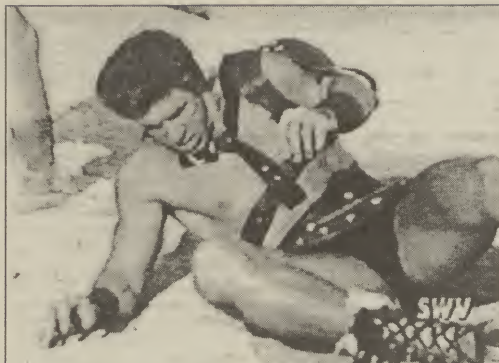
The life of a pro gladiator was not all fun. Those who misbehaved were whipped. Those who were average performers didn't get ahead. In fact, they lost their heads.

Contemporary pro boxers, particularly those managed/swindled by impresario and not-convicted murderer Don King, suffer similar careers. Instead of being whipped, they're just ripped off.

But what really led to the downfall of the Roman version of the athletic arena wasn't the rise of that wacky non-Pagan cult, but the same sort of tomfoolery generated by the Vince McMahon machine (and certain Dutch wrestling officials) — the fixed fight.

Not unlike "sports entertainment," after a huge rise in popularity, people got tired of the fakery, the buffoonery, and the lies perpetuated by promoters. In the 1960s, French historian George Ville claimed that only 5 to 10 percent of Roman gladiators were actually killed. Some even faked dying and came back later as different characters.

Sounds familiar. We like to think that things were always nobler in days of yore. I'd guess they were pretty much the same, but



Thumbs up: *Gladiator* Dan Vadis, down but not out.

without cell phones.

That's why all those post-Steve Reeves sword and sandal flicks cranked out by other Italians retain a bit of hunk appeal, but lack passion or authenticity. After all, how many times can a city be overrun by that same stock footage crowd of rioting peasants? How could those empires rule so long with such incompetent soldiers running away under their tin can brush-cut helmets every time Hercules 5.0 smashed down a door?

Isn't it great to see all those historic post-sporting-event riots and killings ended in the days of the primitives? That sort of thing never happens nowadays — except after any Big 10 football game, most soccer championships, and the occasional DEA child-smuggling.

While I long for the days of men wearing thigh-high tunics, I also long for a day when sports aren't overrun by warlike mimic-

ing. But with alternative sports like gymnastics, diving, and wrestling being drummed out of university programs by the drove in favor of easily fixable moolah-making stadium sports, and those who forget the past being doomed to repeat it, I'm betting my tunic we're going the way of old Rome. ▼

Bob Craig

◀ previous page

ers.

Starting in 1979, Mr. Craig was elected to the board of directors of Christopher Street West, the organization that each year presents the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Pride celebration. He remained with CSW for 14 years, retiring in 1993; he served as CSW's president in 1986-87, and was named CSW Man of the Year in 1985.

Seeing a need for a publication serving the LGBT community, Mr. Craig co-founded *Frontiers News-magazine* in 1982 along with Greg Carmack and Jerry Hyde. He eventually took over total ownership and from a small 16-page tabloid, *Frontiers* grew into the largest gay and lesbian publication serving Southern California and Las Vegas.

Under Mr. Craig's direction, *Frontiers* often tackled controversial subjects. Toward the end of its first year of publication, the news-magazine reprinted Larry Kramer's "AIDS 1,112 and counting," giving it cover status. The community — and the media — did not want to deal with this strange new disease that affected gay men and when the issue came out, calls to the magazine were fast and furious. Despite threats from bar and bathhouse owners to shut the publication down, Mr. Craig and his staff continued covering AIDS.

Frontiers began publishing its San Francisco edition in 1993, and in 1998, he co-founded *IN Los Angeles* magazine.

Over the years, Mr. Craig gave financial backing to a wide array of community groups, ranging from the LIFE Lobby to the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center to the Tom of Finland Foundation.

Mr. Craig, who had been a life-long Republican, very publicly switched to the Democratic Party in 1991, subsequent to then-Governor Pete Wilson's veto of AB101.

Mr. Craig was preceded in death by his lifemate, Joel Heurtebise. He is survived by his sister Connie; his half-sister, Catherine; niece, Nancy; nephew, Michael and family; grand niece, Jessica; grand nephew, Cody; his family at both *Frontiers* offices; the Los Angeles and San Francisco Community Yellow Pages; the staff of *IN*; and his many, many friends in the LGBT community.

A memorial service is scheduled for this Friday, May 5, at the MCC church in West Hollywood, 8714 Santa Monica Boulevard, at 3 p.m. ▼

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- All receive Viracept plus 2 new nucleoside analog drugs

SU5416 (Phase II) for treatment-resistant KS

- Men and women with previously treated Kaposi's sarcoma
- SU5416 "starves" lesions of new blood supply
- Decreases KS-associated swelling

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Local gay softball standings

Barbary Coast Division

Chaos Warriors	4-1
SF Posse	3-2
Lonestar Bears	2-2
Lonestar Mayhem	2-3
Bandits	1-2
Rendez-vous Hitmen	1-3

Cable Car Division

Pilsner Penguins	4-2
Rawhide	3-3
Daddy's	3-3
Detour Devils	3-3
Scorpions	3-3
SF HardDrive	2-3
Hustlers	2-3

Golden Gate Division

Huffin Puffins	5-1
Moby Dicks Whalers	5-1
Alpha Dawgs	5-2
Cinch	4-3
Midnight Sun Comets	4-3
Uncle Berts Guzzins	2-5
Pendulum Pirates	0-7

Women's (World Series)

AVTS	5-0
Bruno's	4-2
Basters	2-3
Marlenas	2-3
Good Vibrations	2-4
Underglass Framing	1-4

Women's (non-World Series)

Stingers	5-0
Wildside	5-1
Bernal Babes	2-1
The Players	3-2
Uncle Berts Millennium	3-4
Tomboys	1-3
Stella	1-3
LYRIC	0-6

HRC hearing

▶ page 5

and the community as a whole, become economically self-reliant and lead fully actualized, sustainable lives in San Francisco. Economic empowerment is based on the premise that, contrary to the generally accepted myth, the LGBT community is not universally wealthy, but rather is economically diverse."

The hearing is being billed as an opportunity for commissioners to learn how "the benefits of an economic boom and the negative fallout from strong economic forces" are affecting "communities marginalized by sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or HIV status."

"My feeling is this is one of the most important issues that has been raised in the LGBT community and it is the most important issue to move us forward as a community," said Jaye Whittaker, who served on the Economic Empowerment Task Force.

A co-founder of the EQ Development Group with her partner, LGBT Advisory Committee member Kathleen Connell, Whittaker said that she would like to see the commission undertake "a study that uses accurate statistical methodology that looks at our community's economic standing, as opposed to marketing studies based on a magazine's readership," among other recommendations made by the task force.

The study would include an assessment of financial status, housing, employment, health-related economic issues, education, and

other issues affecting the economic health of LGBT people.

"I think that would be an excellent start," said Whittaker.

Connell, CEO of the nonprofit EQ Development Group, said her group began holding community meetings in 1997 and 1998 to begin looking at ways to advance and sustain economic development in the LGBT communities.

"We now feel prepared to roll out what we regard as the third side of the pink triangle: economic empowerment," in addition to cultural identity and civil rights, said Connell, who hopes that the commission will adopt the task force's recommendations, which could serve as a model for LGBT communities nationwide.

The task force also is calling for follow-up hearings with the Board of Supervisors; formation of a LGBT community business plan encompassing development strategies for community capital formation, retention, and reinvestment; and development of an advocacy plan for outreach to city, state, and federal funding sources to better utilize the billions of dollars available to San Franciscans.

In implementing these recommendations, the task force called on the city to "incorporate social and political issues of the LGBT community with economic issues and the resultant cultural manifestations, which are not currently well understood. This integration could result in a more holistic understanding of the causes and (and cures) of LGBT strife and oppression."

The hearing will be co-chaired by HRC Commissioners Stephen Herman and Martha Knutzen. ▼

Pride marshals

▶ page 3

joy and said they were honored to be selected as the first marshals of the new century.

"They like me!" exclaimed Ammiano, who surpassed all the individual nominees with 559 votes. "They really like me."

Ammiano noted that the honor coincided with the year that he would be a grandfather for the first time, as his daughter is expecting a baby.

"Now of course, the pressure starts," he said. "What outfit am I going to wear?"

AEF board President Peter Fiske had not yet heard his organization had won grand marshal. "That's great!" Fiske told the Bay Area Reporter.

"It's wonderful for all the people

who help us, and for our clients, the most important part of the organization. AEF is something that all of San Francisco can be proud of. It's part of the San Francisco model of giving direct services to people with AIDS and HIV."

Both of the couples in the winner's circle - Lyon and Martin, with 151 votes, and Williams and Mirikitani, with 240 votes - were unavailable for comment.

The grand marshals will march prominently toward the front of the parade on Sunday, June 25 in any fashion that they like, be it by float, automobile, or old-fashioned walking. They will receive ribbons and recognition from the Pride committee at a separate reception.

Witherington told the B.A.R. that all the grand marshal nominees would serve as honorary marshals in the parade. ▼

Chuck Frutchey

▶ page 25

and a sense of humor that served him and his community well. His message was clear and he shared it with everyone from activists to health educators to pharmaceutical executives.

As the unofficial mayor of Castro Street, Mr. Frutchey kept in touch with the life of the community from his stoop next to Worn Out West and over double espressos at Pasqua. His favorite haunts included Bed, Bath and Beyond and other stores where he spent what he described as "grotesque" sums of money proportionate to any discouraging medical news.

He devoured science fiction, cooking shows, rock music, and nerd books. He had opinions on everything, which he often expressed in the sharpest of barbs. His Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners were never small, excruciatingly well scheduled, always de-

licious, and promptly served.

Mr. Frutchey leaves behind his devoted and loving partner of 14 years; his mother; brother; and a magically diverse family of caring friends he cultivated all his life in San Francisco. He also left behind *The Beauty Treatment*, his unfinished novel, and a community and world which are better off having counted him among its funniest, handsomest, and brightest leaders.

In *The Beauty Treatment* he wrote, "... my obituary said, 'He didn't go anywhere. He didn't transcend to the other side of anything. He won't be with us anymore. He's dead. He won't be back.'"

Friends and colleagues grieve that he won't be back, and miss him terribly.

A celebration of Mr. Frutchey's life will be held on Friday, May 19 at 7 p.m. Please call (415) 487-3073 for more information. Donations to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation or the Stop AIDS Project are preferred. ▼

Ten years for TARC



The Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center celebrated its 10th anniversary with a gala benefit last Thursday, April 27, in San Francisco. Executive Director Paul Causey, left, and Alexis Miranda, right, hosted the event that was attended by over 300 people and raised \$17,500 for the AIDS service organization.

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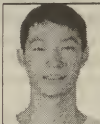
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E19

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E18

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E20

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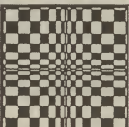
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LEGAL NOTICES

Request for Qualifications #1777915

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals interested in contracting to provide media/consultation for the System of Care Project. The consultant will develop and implement a media strategy to provide outreach, publicity and education about the System of Care Project.

The contract will provide \$50,000 over the period from 7/1/00 to 6/30/01.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning Friday, April 28, 2000. Office hours are from 8AM to 5PM.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Friday, May 5, 2000 at 8:30AM at 170 Otis, 8th Floor Conference Room, SF, CA. For further information call Joseph Huang at (415) 557-5181. Due date for responses is Tuesday, May 23, 2000 at 5PM.

Request for Qualifications #1777927

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals interested in contracting to provide project coordination for the System of Care Project. The consultant will coordinate interdepartmental project planning and implementation, provide fund development, write grants, facilitate meetings, make media/public presentations, and perform outreach for the System of Care Project.

The contract will provide \$90,000 over the period from 7/1/00 to 6/30/01.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning Friday, April 28, 2000. Office hours are from 8AM to 5PM.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Friday, May 5, 2000 at 9:15AM at 170 Otis, 8th Floor Conference Room, SF, CA. For further information call Joseph Huang at (415) 557-5181. Due date for responses is Tuesday, May 23, 2000 at 5PM.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 240024

The following person(s) are doing business as Gary on Geary, 5138 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gary Bennett Swartzburg. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/2/2000. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/10/2000
APRIL 20, 27, MAY 4, 11, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 240007

The following person(s) are doing business as AB Software, 156 Shawnee Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Andrew J. Wysocki. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/1/2000. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/12/2000
APRIL 20, 27, MAY 4, 11, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 240067

The following person(s) are doing business as Nick Trubenbach Design, 1248 Arguello Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nick Trubenbach. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 1/1/2000. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/14/2000
APRIL 20, 27, MAY 4, 11, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 240169

The following person(s) are doing business as Landis Communications, 1388 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed David Landis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 1/1/2000. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/19/2000
APRIL 27, MAY 4, 11, 18, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 240349

The following person(s) are doing business as Garden Belle, French Roots, 4327 18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Sylvie Carnot. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/27/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/27/2000
MAY 4, 11, 18, 25, 2000

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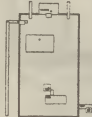
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 18 • 4 May 2000

ROYALLY GAY

MARK LAMOS FINDS THE EROTIC IN 'EDWARD II'

by Richard Dodds

Mark Lamos (standing) directs
Malcolm Gets (front left) as
Edward II and Christopher
Baker, who plays Edward's
lover Gaveston, in a
rehearsal for ACT's
production of *Edward II*,
with Michael Polak
looking on.



Kevin Berne

A scene of steamy gay locker-room sex will be the first thing audiences see when the curtain goes up on *Edward II* at the Geary Theater.

"It happens right off the bat," said director Mark Lamos, "so the people who don't want to see that can leave and let the rest of us enjoy the show. I want to show great sex on stage."

In Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II*, written near the end of the 16th century about the actual 14th-century monarch, it is clear that the English king is having great sex with a comely commoner named Gaveston. "Marlowe accepts the King's sexuality," Lamos said, "and he sensationalized it for his audience by not making it an issue. I sensationalize more by making it an issue."

Lamos had first considered staging *Edward II* when he was artistic director of the Hartford Stage Company, an 18-year association that he ended amicably in 1997. "But I don't think I could have done a production as out there as this," he said. "As artistic director, you're a father figure responsible for the whole season."

At ACT, Carey Perloff is the father figure, so to speak, and in her first season as artistic director she faced a firestorm of criticism for the nudity and violence in a production of *The Duchess of Malfi*. Lamos knew about the earlier controversy.

"I told her that the only way to do this play," Lamos said, "is if it's very erotic. She said, 'There are buttons that can be pushed, so the more we know what you plan, the more we can prepare audiences.' I don't know whether it will shock or titillate. But a straight actor in our cast — I think he's straight — said that the opening scene is really hot."

The cast is headed by Malcolm Gets, a stage actor who found fame as the nerdy Richard on TV's *Caroline in the City*. "He's a wonderful actor," Lamos said. "He was my Bassanio in *Merchant of Venice* at Hartford Stage, and he was also the star of my *Martin Guerre* musical years ago."

Christopher Baker, a strikingly handsome actor who arrived unheralded at auditions, is playing Gaveston, who has publicly charmed the king to their eventual peril.

What at first most seems to bother the other noblemen is that the lovesick Edward is bestowing the kingdom's riches on a peasant. In an

page 48 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

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by Roberto Friedman
and Clark Kent

We got to the cast party for *Fosse* at Mecca last week rather late, but well before any of the actual cast members. They are dancers, after all, they had to change after the show, and stretch out.

But soon there they were, young, elegant and long-limbed, and sidling up to their first martinis. They wore spaghetti-strap tops and silk skirts—we're talking about the men, of course. Waiters passed around pizza, shrimp fritters, delicious little nibbly things—but there were no takers, since absolutely no one was eating carbs after midnight.



Out There

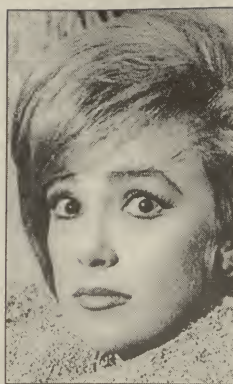
Foss called the "squidgie." Use your imagination.

Wild at heart

The Marc Huestis-produced *Tribute to Billy Wilder* affair at the Castro last Friday night was clearly one from the heart, as our hometown impresario MH, all of his glorious performers, guest of honor show biz veteran Edie Adams, her glam best friend and doyenne of SF society Denise Hale, breathless warm-up act Jan Wahl, phone-in film legend Jack Lemmon, even the fresh-struck print of Wilder's *The*

Apartment itself, all seemed to be at the top of their form.

You could tell it was a special occasion for the Hostess, who



Edie Adams

city proclamations and testimonials were just *schmaltz*, we mean icing, on the cake.

From our perch in the Castro's closed balcony, we were up-close and ready for songbird Connie Champagne's close-up as Norma Desmond. We thrilled to Edie challenging anyone to give her attitude about her ocelot hat (she made it from a rug): "Don't you fur people get on my case, it was 40 years ago!" And when Huestis asked her to tell about the time she was propositioned by JFK, Edie replied candidly, "I was blonde, 30, and it was 40 years ago, what can I say?" (She said no.)

Local talent boom

We're beginning to believe we live in a veritable hotbed of talent. By *Hook Or By Crook*, the debut feature from Bearded Lady Cafe co-founders Silas Flipper and Harriet Dodge, just finished shooting a couple of weeks ago. They're aiming to have the genderfuck buddy movie ready in time for Sundance in January. Look for Harriet in the new John Waters movie, *Cecil B. Demented*, opening in August, and look for Silas heading up our fave local dyke band, *Tribe 8*, coming soon to a dive bar near you.

Another local boy aiming at the Sundance target is the charming and talented filmie David Weissman. Rumor has it that his feature-length documentary, *The Cockettes*, just got a big grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation. These are two of the most exciting movie projects of the year. So if

the filmmakers ask you for money, we say: give it to 'em!

Those other local film-world heroes, Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, just got off the plane from Turin, Italy, carrying a pair of statues. They nabbed the Audience Award and the Jury Award for Best Documentary at last week's 15th Annual Turin Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Look for *Paragraph 175* to have a two-week run at the Castro in September.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we're pleased to see that the Queen of Lesbian Cinema, the Bay Area's own Barbara Hammer, is finally getting the Frameline Award this year at the Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (June 15-25). Bravo, Barbara!

Stage door

It falls to Out There to give you the scoop that larger-than-life film star Kathleen Turner will be coming to our little cowtown next season in a pre-Broadway run of *Tallulah*, a play about legendary actress Tallulah Bankhead, set in



Tallulah Bankhead

1947. The advance word is that *Tallulah* is booked at the Curran Theatre, with an opening in mid-January 2001.

We'll be glad to see La Turner here, but warn her that she has a hard act to follow. Few who saw *Chronicle* film critic/erstwhile Tallulah impersonator Edward Guthmann in his unheralded one-woman show at Josie's a few seasons back can ever forget it. Even if they wanted to. ▼

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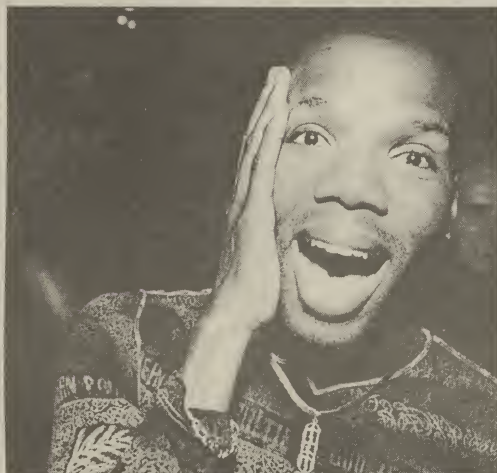
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Dancer Terace Jones at the *Fosse* cast party at Mecca.

Then a scene from *Bob Fosse*'s autobiographical flick *All That Jazz* came on the video, and all the kids were suddenly glued to the screen. They were memorizing steps, no doubt, and comparing classic *Fosse* hand positions he called "teacup fingers" or the "soft-boiled egg" position. We've been boning up on the details, and we're trying to learn how to do our favorite *Fosse* "mannerism" (as per a recent review), one the

conducted the chatty on-stage interview with Miss Adams herself. Mostly his role consisted of interrupting La Edie from time to time, when she had gone off into some fabulous gossip anecdote, and reminding her what the question was. Oftentimes the point of the glamorous Edie digression would be supplied by Mr. Marc himself ("I read her book!"). But it didn't matter; Miss Adams was clearly the star of the night, and all the

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THEATRE

One-play wonder (so far)

'Wit's lesbian playwright Margaret Edson

by Richard Dodds

When Margaret Edson won the Pulitzer Prize for *Wit*, news stories matter of factly mentioned that she lives in Atlanta with her companion Linda Merrill. "I was surprised," she said, of what a non-issue her lesbianism proved to be.

Maybe now it's time to sensationalize it. "Good luck," she said with a laugh. "We are the most boring people in the world."

Wit, in San Francisco through May 28, is Edson's first and only produced play, and it snatched from happy obscurity this Atlanta kindergarten teacher when it became an off-Broadway hit in 1998. She's still happily teaching kindergarten.

Her life, she said, has changed mainly in small ways. "I've made a lot of new friends that I wouldn't have made otherwise," said the 38-year-old teacher-playwright. "And this year, I've been doing a lot of speaking. But I only accept the invitations that intrigue me."

Asked if any gay and lesbian groups have invited her to speak, she offered an unadorned "no."

But, asked the interviewer still looking for a gay angle (or "the gangle"), wouldn't that be a likely scenario? "Well, I guess," Edson replied. "But I don't see myself as a commentator on the contemporary gay scene. If you'd like to hear a talk on that, it would be me putting away groceries, which I'm doing right now."

So, what's an example of an intriguing invitation? "I spoke to the Association of American Colleges and Universities," she said, "on the subject of punctuation."

Actually, the subject of punctuation plays an important role in *Wit*. The play focuses on a literature professor whose precision in life extends to passionate discussions of whether a comma or semicolon belongs in a particular poem by John Donne. Professor Vivian Bearing's tightly wound grip on her life is shaken when she's diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She must learn to give up control and allow kindness into her life.

Because of its grim subject, the play at first was a tough sell to theaters and audiences. But those who saw it often came away converts, convincing friends that the play is both poignant and uplifting, and most surprisingly, very funny.

"The idea," Edson said, "is to be moving so quickly back and forth between laughing and feeling agony that you're off-balance all the time."

Judith Light, who succeeded original star Kathleen Chalfant in New York, heads the touring production at the Curran Theatre. "Judith is hilarious," the playwright said. "It takes longer to do the play with her, because of the laughter."

Wit, a play written when Edson worked at a bicycle repair shop, was a play that nobody wanted. "I sent it out to every theater I could think of," she said. "It was flat-out rejected."

But finally one theater, South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, said it would consider producing the play if Edson would make a few cuts. Like, about an hour's worth.

"It was very revealing about the writing process," she said, "be-



Wit director Derek Anson Jones and playwright Margaret Edson at their Sidwell Friends High School (Washington, DC) Senior Prom in 1979.

cause I ended up having to cut the parts I worked hardest on. They were the hardest to lose, and yet they belonged the least."

Wit opened at South Coast Rep in 1995, got great reviews, and then promptly disappeared again. "For two years, I couldn't get an agent, and no one would put it on," Edson said. "But by this time I was teaching, and it wasn't as costly to me emotionally as it would have been if I had been planning a career as a writer."

Edson credits Derek Anson Jones, an old friend and an aspiring director, whose tenacity eventually resulted in the New York success. His direction of the play also pointed to another promising career, but he died earlier this year of AIDS.

"It was horrible, because we had known each other since we were 12," Edson said. "We went to the prom together."

Wit, of course, deals with issues of life and death. "I created the character of Vivian to make a point, not to be a documentary about an individual," she said. "I wanted to talk about redemption and grace. I think people have souls, and I think our souls need a lot of hard work while we're still here. Vivian's needed some hard



Wit playwright Margaret Edson

work, and if she had lived another 20 years, she never would have gotten around to it."

These are issues important to Edson, who has said unless something else grabs her attention, she'll be happy to be a one-play wonder. She has always marched to her own drummer.

In a final attempt at the gangle, Edson was queried on what it was like growing up gay, coming out, and talking to her parents about it. "Even that was boring. I hate to tell you. I've always been different and weird," she said, "and so it was just one more weird thing."

Revisionist Richard

Playwright Toni Press-Coffman is one of those people who believe that Richard III got a raw deal in the Shakespeare play that bears his name. The politics of Shakespeare's day, the theory goes, forced him to turn the monarch into a hunchbacked villain.

In *Two Days of Grace at Middleham*, Press-Coffman juxtaposes her revisionist take on Richard and his wife Anne with a contemporary gay relationship. The play sets out to explore the way the human heart has remained unchanged through time, and the impact of history on contemporary life.

Two Days of Grace at Middleham is being staged by First Scene, a playwright-driven theater company of which Press-Coffman is a founding member. Her play *Touch* was recently staged at the Humana Festival of New American Plays in Louisville.

Leslie Martinson is directing *Two Days of Grace*, which will run through May 27 in the Studio at Theatre Rhino. For ticket information, call 861-5079.

Silver bullets

The absurdist satire of gay playwright Nicky Silver gets a rare Bay Area showcase as the Inquiline Theatre Company presents *Raised in Captivity*. "The necessity of forgiving ourselves is at the heart of the play," Silver told the *BAR* in 1998.

In the play, seen in New York in

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Dances in a minor key

'Fosse' at the Orpheum Theatre

by Richard Dodds

Reactions to *Fosse* at the Orpheum Theatre have been decidedly mixed. The *Chronicle's* Little Man couldn't muster the energy to applaud, while the *Examiner's* dance critic was energized only by his distaste for the show. Even a friend with unjaded sensibilities said he'd be happy if he never sees another one of those bent-out-shape Fosse dance steps.

Me, I rather liked the show. But I can't promise you the same reaction, especially since it took a second viewing to achieve it.

Seeing the tribute to choreographer Bob Fosse on Broadway last year shortly after it opened was a pleasant enough experience while it lasted. But it all soon evaporated after the final curtain. Stripped of their original contexts, many of the dance numbers seem

diminished and repetitive, even as they were being smartly performed.

Armed with this knowledge going in, attention could be paid to the subtleties of how Fosse's steps create a kind of alternate universe, and to how this collection of his work has been imaginatively woven together. And to one observer at least, the touring cast seems more alluring than its Broadway counterpart, so factor in an eye-candy quotient as well.

Fosse opens with a dream-like overture of dance steps, providing a leisurely start that builds into a full-throttle evocation of "Bye Bye Blackbird" from the *Liza with a Z* TV special. All facets of Fosse's career, from Broadway to television to the movies, are included, and to be sure, there are some laggards among the gems. But the riches are considerable.

If choreographers can be said to work in a musical key, you

might say that Gower Champion's bright, open dances were staged in a major key, while Fosse's brooding and sometimes sinister steps come from a minor key. Fosse's movements often seem to be about sex, but it's not nice sex. The show even manages to turn Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing" into an orgasmic finale.

Fosse, who died in 1987, first made his mark on Broadway in 1954 with *The Pajama Game*, and even today, it's easy to see why the "Steam Heat" number got him noticed in a big way. There is an edge to its imaginative struts, something slightly off-kilter for the Eisenhower era. By the time he choreographed "Big Spender" from the 1966 *Sweet Charity*, his dances had outgrown the old-fashioned musicals they were meant to serve.

Fosse probably realized that himself, for his final Broadway success, *Dancin'* in 1978, was made up only of dances created to stand alone, and *Fosse* understandably culls strongly from this source. Six major numbers have been drawn from *Dancin'*, including "Sing, Sing, Sing," which features the entire company, and "Percussion 4," which gives featured dancer Terace Jones a thrilling solo.

Mostly, though, this is an en-



Reva Rice performs "Mein Herr"

semble production, but that doesn't mean you can't pick out your favorites. Among the men, Mark Swannhart, John Carroll, and Matt Locher had a way about them, while the female corps was particularly distinguished by Linda Bowen, Meg Gillentine, and vocalist Reva Rice.

Fosse, put together by Richard Maltby Jr., Chet Walker, and Fosse protégé Anne Reinking, is a show that is never less than beguiling. Whether it will be more than that for you depends on your expectations, attention, and appreciation for Fosse's skewed view of the world. You can count me in. ▽

Fosse will run at the Orpheum Theatre through May 27. Tickets are \$30-\$75. Call 512-7770 or visit www.bestofbroadway-sf.com.

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More than just a stage

Musical theatre on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

If all the world is a stage, then what of "original cast recordings?" A genre once limited to "original Broadway" casts, the cast recording has been evolving over time, especially since live and London cast recordings have become increasingly popular, and new original musicals are no longer only the property of Broadway.

Gunmetal Blues (LML Music/Laguna Playhouse) is "a wisecracking musical comedy" which makes unabashed fun of the rapid-fire talk, streetwise smarts, and matter-of-fact ironies of the work of writers such as Raymond Chandler, Dashiell Hammett, and Mickey Spillane, with a book by Chandler admirer Scott Wentworth. Gumshoe Sam Galahad (Andrew Barnicle) is hired by a mysterious blonde (Tracy Lore) to find Jennifer Wasp, a missing heiress. Set in the Red Eye Lounge, an airport hotel bar, the songs (music by Craig Bohmler and lyrics by Marion Adler) evoke a bluesy, '40s state of mind, occasionally achieving a standard Broadway musical style (especially "Shadowplay," "The Blonde Song," "Childhood Days," and "I'm The One That Got Away").

City Of Angels is another film-noirish musical. You can hear the song "You're Nothing Without Me" on *Finishing The Act* (AF Records) by singer and actor Craig Rubano (*Les Misérables*). *Finishing The Act* finds Rubano taking an interesting approach to several songs from

classic Broadway musicals. As a young person attending a stage production of a musical, Rubano recalls being "in the thrall of an Act One Finale for the first time," and this album allows Rubano to focus on the songs that close the first act, leaving the audience in anticipation of what is to follow. Rubano's rich and powerful tenor does wonders for songs for which fans of musical theater already have high expectations. Highlights include "Who Can I Turn To (When Nobody Needs Me)" ("I Am My Own Best Friend" (from *The Roar Of The Greasepaint... and Chicago*, respectively), "Before The Parade Passes By"/"Take The Moment" (from *Hello, Dolly!* and *Do I Hear A Waltz?*), "Sunday" (from *Sunday In The Park With George*), "Mamma, Look Sharp" and "Father To Son" (from 1776 and *Falsettos*), and "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" (from *The Sound Of Music*).

Know your A B C's

Cy Coleman, who wrote the music to *City Of Angels*, and many other beloved Broadway musicals, is one of three composers saluted on the delightful two-disc concert CD *Adler, Bock, Coleman* (LML Music/STAGE). Recorded during the 15th annual Southland Theater Artists Goodwill Event (STAGE), *Adler, Bock, Coleman* features performances by such renowned performers as Tyne Daly, Gregory Harrison, Betty Garrett, Charlotte Rae, Lucie Arnaz, Joely Fisher, Carrie Hamilton, Nancy Dussault, Linda Purl,

page 49 ►

DANCE

Beefcake and Juliet

San Francisco Ballet puts beauty on stage

by Stephanie von Buchau

One of my favorite ballet queens swanned up to us at the first intermission of the San Francisco Ballet's opening night *Romeo and Juliet* and declared, "Mercy! There's more prime beef on that stage than at Harris Ranch!" And the funny thing is that none of us laughed. We all licked our lips and agreed: "Uh-huh!"

It is not unseemly to talk about SFB's beautiful male dancers when discussing a serious work of art like Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, ably staged and choreographed by Helgi Tomasson. This revival has been tidied and sharpened; Tomasson's somewhat generic romantic choreography benefits from committed dancing. Jens-Jacob Worsaae's serviceable sets and sumptuous costumes set the mood for dance-drama. Only the musical aspect of this revival was wanting. We can't keep lamenting the late Denis de Coteau but, while Emil de Cou leads the dance numbers soundly, he has trouble enforcing discipline and often starts the evening at a depressingly low level of energy and execution.

Still, it was the male presence in the two performances I saw opening weekend that made one's jaw drop. Without indulging in invidious comparisons, it is safe to say that no *Romeo* in San Francisco, never mind which choreographer, ever sported such a team of tall, strong, handsome, well-built, technically-proficient male dancers. True, opening night found Yuri Possokhov slightly past his prime as a youthful romantic lead. His ironic personality makes this *Romeo* seem not only experienced but jaded; having deflowered the town's ranking virgin, there is nothing left but to die.

The hunky Possokhov still looks spectacular in those Prussian blue spandex tights that Worsaae provided; there is nothing more emasculating than putting poor *Romeo* in the traditional powder blue or pale fawn tights. *Romeo's* pal Benvolio wears silver-gray in this production, and I thought maybe that was why Gonzalo Garcia seemed so prominent in the marketplace scenes,

but no, the next afternoon, Sergio Torrado wore the silver and, attractive as he is, he blended more with the background. Garcia easily outdanced his two companions in the male trio and generally made Benvolio into a starring role. Is *Romeo* next?

Choice cut

Christopher Stowell is not tall, but held his own in this company, filet mignon instead of prime rib. I don't remember him dancing Mercutio with such freedom in the past. Here, without ever losing control, he pressed the characterization to the limit, indulging in scapegrace antics that were never vulgar yet drew consistent laughs, and dying with moving despair. Tiny as he is, he looked dashing and smart with his trim beard and flashing swordplay.

Then there was Damian Smith's star-making Tybalt, the most intense, angriest interpretation of this role I've seen in Prokofiev or in Shakespeare. The Australian dancer (whom I've taken to calling "Give Me Damian or Give Me Death" Smith), wearing a sexy spade beard and red costume, was not as flashy as Jais Zinoun was in the original staging, but Zinoun played Tybalt as a hot-headed homey, whereas Smith is a dangerous Veronese psycho, having some sort of sick liaison with Rosaline. (Leslie Young, proving she's a first-rate actress, was deeply involved in what is essentially a non-dance role.)

At the matinee, Smith switched parts with Benjamin Pierce, who had been Paris the first night. Juliet (Joanna Berman), after she has slept with her husband, looked at the elegant, foppish Pierce with "As if!" disbelief. Yuan Yuan Tan's Juliet approached the dry-as-dust Smith (looking, without the beard, like Mayor Giuliani) with the kind of distaste you might experience if you found a cockroach in your salad. Both approaches are valid, and both worked with the individual male dancer, though Pierce's eager-to-fight Tybalt was much lighter weight than Smith's murderous nutcase.

After Smith's death opening night, a good deal of physical energy went out of the performance. Possokhov and Berman are senior dancers, and they perform very

well together, but they don't exactly connect emotionally. What we get in the love duets is a clinic in placement, line, lifts, unison arms, but not enough hormonal eroticism. Their best work was in the last act, where Berman commands the stage during the long potion sequence and Possokhov, at the tomb, lets fly with Russian melodrama; when his eyes roll upward in despair at finding Juliet "dead," you get a real chill.

But it was the following matinee that moved me to tears. Tan, dancing her first Juliet, not only produced the extreme extensions, graceful arm positions and endless line that we expect, but also connected musically with the score and choreography, making important spiritual epiphanies out of pure dance. She understands exactly the emotional progression of this vulnerable young woman, at first smiling and happy, even when dancing with Paris, then thunderstruck when she meets *Romeo* at the ball. After her wedding night, Tan's Juliet develops a backbone of steel under her pliant guise; only a self-important father would be fooled by that sudden submissiveness.

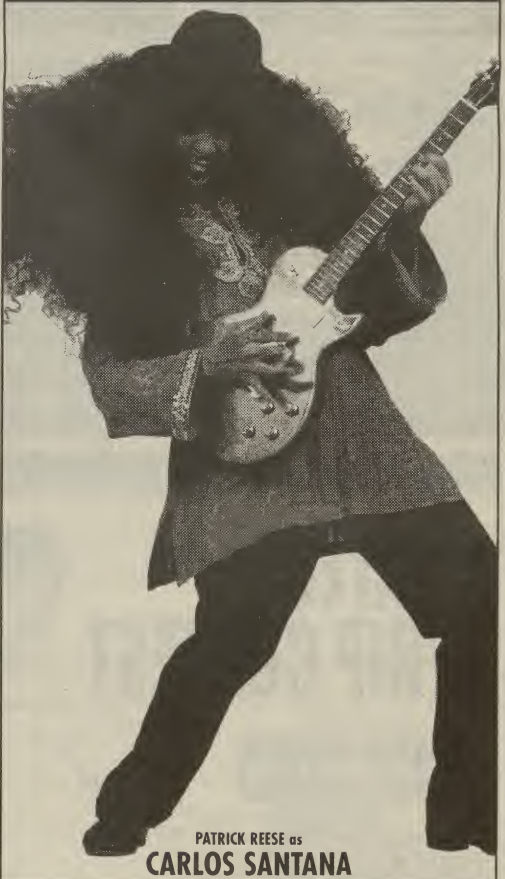
And what is not to be struck by when the *Romeo* is Pierre-François Vilanoba? Hurt much of the season, he emerged at the end just as he had last year when he provided us with the company's best Albrecht. Vilanoba is another of the seemingly inexhaustible supply of tall, dark, handsome males in this production. (Even the character dancers — Val Caniparoli, Ashley Wheaton and Jim Sohm — qualify.) Better yet, Vilanoba gave *Romeo* a charge of youthful wonderment in Juliet's presence that, combined with the shocking speed at which they danced the two big duets, made their erotic rapture palpable.

Even a *Romeo* who doesn't dance as well as Vilanoba needs to look at his Juliet as if she were the most beautiful thing on stage — not a difficulty with Tan, of course. He did and she was, contributing mightily to the roar of approval that greeted their curtain calls. ▼

SF Ballet's *Romeo and Juliet* runs through May 7. Call 865-2000.

Yuan Yuan Tan as Juliet in San Francisco Ballet's *Romeo and Juliet*

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FILM

Gladiator? Give us gladiolas

We've heard all the advance buzz about Ridley Scott's new movie *Gladiator*, opening this week from Universal/DreamWorks: how hot Russell Crowe looks in his armor, how gory it is, how loong it is, how all the young stars in Hollywood wanted to be in it, how it's being touted as this year's *Titanic* (heaven forfend), yadda yadda yadda.

We've also heard that, despite how large gladiator movies loomed in our impressionable youth as an inexhaustible supply of homoerotic imagery, there is sadly no homo subtext at all to speak of in the mainstream attraction. Another golden opportunity squandered.

By the time you read this, you're already weary of the hype. Opens Friday in megaplexes everywhere. ▼



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Diesel noir, swamp noir, everynoir

Dark themes at the Roxie

by Gary Morris

With its themes of paranoia and nihilism, images of dark, cramped streets, and nowhere characters who tempt fate and live (or don't) to regret it, film noir would seem to be one of the least hospitable, and perhaps least popular, of movie genres. But in fact, not only is it one of the most enduring, it's also one of the most open, giddily accommodating all manner of other genres in bizarre hybrids and generic graftings.

This surprising variety is on lurid display in the Roxie's 19-day festival (May 5-23). There are certifiable classics, of course, like *Chinatown*, *Taxi Driver*, and *The Lady from Shanghai*, along with underrated works like John Frankenheimer's *Seconds*. Best of all, though, are the obscure gems from poverty row, along with rarely screened "TV noir" from the '50s and '60s that prove that the gulags of low-budget film and commercial TV could deliver a noir punch every bit as powerful as the more respectable, big-budget classics of the genre. That the films cover a wide geography of place and style — swamps, produce districts, even beach shacks with LSD parties — makes them all the more enticing.

One of the genres that has benefited heavily from noir's nastiness is the 1940s women's picture. Felix Feist's *Allotment Wives* (1945), for example, has a Mildred Pierce-style mother-daughter conflict, but in this case "mother" (Kay Francis) is a crime queenpin, equal parts glamour and ruthlessness, and her daughter is gradually being sucked into the life. The film's glistening black-and-white photography and the weird plot — women preying on soldiers for their allotment checks — skewers any potential Hallmark Card sentiments the genre is known for.

Another criminally minded postwar gal is June Havoc's title character in *The Story of Molly X* (1949). This one is noir in a women's prison, with location footage at Tehachapi and a social

reformist movement that tries to find some good in one of poverty-row cinema's hardest dames. Molly is also cursed with a wonderfully evil doppelganger, a beautiful rival moll who haunts her from every dark doorway.

Paranoira

That noir doesn't have to take place in the city is proven by Andre de Toth's *Dark Waters* (1944), a fabulous women's pic about paranoia on the plantation. Merle Oberon is an unhinged gal whose mental recuperation in the Louisiana bayous filled with warped characters would bring anybody to collapse. In this "swamp noir" (with prominent quicksand pits), no one is who he seems, though Oberon remains glamorous even in distress.



Rock Hudson in *Seconds*

beachhouse. The ending is one of the genre's most horrific (we'll resist the temptation to give it away).

Television's reputation as a wasteland, mostly richly deserved, is challenged by its powerful work in the "TV noir" genre of the '50s and '60s. There are two nights devoted to this tantalizing subject. Hitchcock's little-known hour TV



Merle Oberon in a scene from *Dark Waters*

Another unusual noir grafting can be found in the "diesel noir" of *Thieves' Highway* (1949). Written by A.I. Bezzerides (of *Kiss Me Deadly* fame) and directed by Jules Dassin, this white-knuckle ride is one of the undiscovered masterpieces of 1940s noir. Richard Conte plays a prodigal son who returns to a father whose legs have been cut off, a girlfriend whose only interest is his money, and a postwar world of violent profiteering. Valentina Cortese beautifully plays a world-weary prostitute (who knew there were whores working the produce district?), Lee J. Cobb is slimy corruption personified, and Conte resonates as the hardscrabble regular guy whose attempts to win the American Dream are brutally thwarted. Best of all are the real locations throughout and a harrowing road trip in a huge, collapsing truck carrying thousands of precious apples through the desolation of central California.

Rock Hudson and film noir are hard phrases to say in the same breath, but the late actor gives an exceptional performance in John Frankenheimer's brutal *Seconds* (1966). This existential classic spends too much time in the middle on a woodland naked hippie party, but the rest of the film is a wrenching exercise in dehumanization, with Rock starting out as an angst-ridden businessman who gets a new life as a playboy painter courtesy of a strange organization called The Company. The film shows what Hitchcock also proved, that noir's ethos flourishes equally well in darkness and day; many of the scenes here are in brightly lit offices and a Malibu

show *Suspicion* weighs in with *Four O'Clock*, an exercise in sadism and paranoia about a "little man" (E.G. Marshall) who decides to blow up his wife when he learns she's cheating on him. Hitch has gruesome fun at his character's expense, with heavy bondage imagery, slobbering psychopaths, and a ticking bomb. Shorter and even stronger is *One is a Wanderer* (1958), directed by Herschel Daugherty for G.E. Theatre. Here Fred MacMurray plays a businessman who quietly disintegrates before our eyes. Scenes like a stilted, ultimately hopeless phone conversation with his ex-wife, and a pathetic near-miss with a homely spinster, show what a powerful actor MacMurray could be, and how much sheer anguish could be poured into a half-hour.

And then there's *The Outsider*, a must-see 1968 TV-movie directed by Michael Ritchie. Darren McGavin plays David Ross, a used-up LA private eye investigating what he thinks is a straightforward embezzlement case. This simple assignment balloons into Byzantine proportions, leading him through a series of bizarre demimondes (go-go clubs, beachhouses, sleazy hotels), drugs (chloral hydrate and LSD, natch), and weird characters, including an LSD guru holding court over acidheads at the aforementioned beachhouse. Beaten, strangled, and drugged, Ross is one of noir's quintessential punching bags, but one who, like the genre itself, nonetheless always manages to survive. ▼

Noir 2000 plays May 5-23 at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St.

FILM

Surreal homo hoedown

Experimental 'De Profundis' at Yerba Buena Center

by Gary Morris

De Profundis was the closest Oscar Wilde ever came to a queer apologia and defense, written as a letter from Reading Gaol over a three-month period in 1897. In it, the imprisoned author laments the mask of bourgeois heterosexuality he wore for so long: "Those who want a mask have to wear it" is his brief, bitter assessment. This idea of queers and the masks society forces them to adopt is also one of the driving themes of Lawrence Brose's 65-minute experimental film of the same name, a surreal exploration of homo identity. It's being presented by SF Cinematheque at Yerba Buena next Thursday, May 11.

This demanding film (sensitive viewers may want to pop some Dramamine beforehand) is a stroboscopic collage of 1920s queer home movies, old gay porn loops, Radical Faerie hoedowns, and drag queen performances, images the director stretches, flattens, reverses, recolors, and degrades, in a heady attempt to render the shifting queer persona and the many assaults on it. Wilde "appears" as the film's patron saint in passages read from *De Profundis*, many of them pungent aphorisms that speak volumes, not only about his wretched experience in jail, but about the intense desirability of prying off the mask and living authentically.

Director Brose is known in the avant-garde film community for his meticulous hand-processing of found footage, but he takes the technique to unsettling extremes here. Sometimes half-hidden, sometimes overt in the hammering rhythms of the film's multi-colored images are scenes from a wide range of queer mythologies: body-builders cavorting through the woods, gay sailors giving each other blow jobs, drag queens prancing across a stage. Brose's processing strategies create a kind

of stark beauty, but also embody a physical assault on the film that's analogous to societal threats on the gallery of queer characters shown. The effect is sometimes striking and sometimes stupefying, as the director repeats some of the same footage to numbing effect, often varying only the soundtrack.

In the opening scenes, the director introduces what appear to be autobiographical accounts of one gay man's attempts to carve a space for himself in a world not inclined to accommodate him. The narrator describes an evocative scene: stripping naked in a New York movie theatre during a rainstorm. The theatre provides a haven that's physical, psychic, and sexual when he meets another urban wanderer: "This was my first time having sex in a public space that wasn't a queer space."

This story is recounted over a screen teeming with nervous, almost punishing images of queer encounters of all kinds, both soft and hardcore.

While the visuals are jittery enough to induce vertigo — and Brose compounds the chaos with multiple, competing voiceovers in some sections — the film is anchored by Wilde's insights, read in a mostly calm, reassuring voice. Who can argue with such succinct summings-up of the human experience as, "The faith that others



A scene from Lawrence Brose's *De Profundis*

give to what is unseen [religion] I give to what one can touch and look at," or, "The final mystery is oneself," or, "We measure time by throbs of pain," and the even more sweeping, "Men live by pain."

Sections of *De Profundis* the film are devoted to images of the kind of homosexual ecstasy Wilde must have dreamed of (particularly during his imprisonment): Dionysian revels populated by the Radical Faeries. But they're not

without alloy. There's a level of distance imposed by Brose's powerful manipulations — color tints and stretched frames that confuse the action — that shows the pleasures of queer celebration under siege, fragile and fragmented, but somehow, in spite of it all, ultimately intact. ▼

SF Cinematheque presents *De Profundis* on Thurs., May 11, 7:30 p.m. at YBC for the Arts.

Backstage

◀ page 35

1995, the central character is a gay man in his 30s who has been sexually and emotionally celibate since the death of his lover from AIDS 11 years before. Other characters include his manic twin sister, the ghost of their mother, his unstable therapist, and his convict pen pal.

Colman Domingo is directing the production for *Inquiline*, which last year presented *Frank Rich Is Dead*, *The Red Address*, and *Burn This* in various venues. With *Raised in Captivity*, the troupe has

set up shop at the Shelton Theatre, where the run continues through May 28. Call 289-2260.

Staircase to history

A play about two aging, bickering homosexuals who share a London flat helped change the face of British theater. Charles Dyer's *Staircase*, staged in London's West End in 1966, created an uproar that culminated with the end of Lord Chamberlain's censorship role in British theater.

The play ran briefly on Broadway and became a 1969 film with Richard Burton and Rex Harrison, but since then has largely dis-

appeared. Now the American Citizens' Theatre in Walnut Creek is providing a chance to see this early and sympathetic portrait of homosexuality.

Michael Lopez and Jesse Caldwell are playing the two barbers who find solace together as they face their own personal dilemmas. Hector Correa is the director.

For information on the production, running through May 14 at the Dean Leshner Center, call (925) 943-7469. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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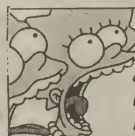
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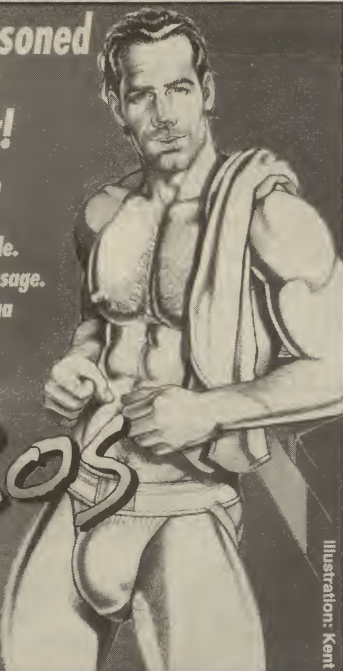


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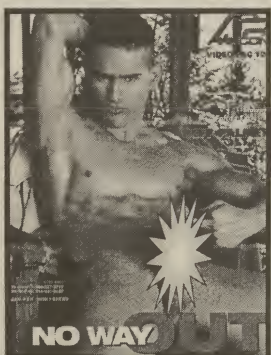
LIVE EROTIC JACK OFF SHOWS

MON - THUR: 12:30-2:30-6:00-8:30PM
FRI: 12:30-2:30-6:00-7:30-9:00-11:00PM
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The Kronos Quartet performs with soprano Dawn Upshaw on Sunday, May 7 at 7 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley. From left: Jennifer Culp, David Harrington, Dawn Upshaw, Hank Dutt, and John Sherba.

Fellow travelers

Kronos Quartet's new CD, 'Caravan'

by Michael McDonagh

Everyone seems to want to be distracted today, and cell phones, computers and e-mail are designed to avoid direct human contact. But direct human contact with each other, as well as composers from over 50 countries and audiences all over the world, is exactly what Kronos Quartet has been doing for over 25 years.

Founded in 1973 by first violinist David Harrington, they've had several personnel changes through their present line-up of Harrington, second violinist John Sherba, violist Hank Dutt, and Jennifer Culp, who replaced cellist Joan Jeanrenaud last year. And though they've performed and recorded some of the core modernist quartets, Kronos has also commissioned and arranged over 400 others, and succeeded in making audiences respond to sometimes fiercely difficult music.

The group has endured the deaths of Harrington's young son Adam, Dutt's lover Kevin Freeman (from AIDS), and Joan's still-born child Mario Moruzzi. And I think that all of this life experience somehow feeds their work. Kronos' latest CD, *Caravan*, their 28th for Nonesuch, shows them exploring numerous musical tradi-

tions. It's also their first recorded outing with Culp.

Though *Caravan* can be seen as just another trendy installment in the Quartet's series of world music — like *Pieces of Africa* (1992), which became a huge hit — I think it's more useful to view it as a reflection of the late Indian raga singer Pandit Pran Nath's saying, "Souls travel in caravans." And if music is indeed a universal language, then Kronos' spiritual journey has been to find like-souled people.

There are 12 pieces by 11 composers here, and eight have been

(1943-) contributes a very striking, sensual work, "Ecstasy," with the composer on nay (rim-blown reed flute) and Souhail Kasper on tar (frame-drum). Racy has used *scordatura*, or "mistuning," in this case lowering the pitch, for the Kronos to achieve an integration of "European polyphony and Near Eastern sonorities and modal techniques." And the result? A tremendously evocative piece full of spare yet spacious musical textures, which could prove as popular with audiences as Hamza El Din's "Escalay" ("Waterwheel").

The title is a reflection of the late Indian raga singer Pandit Pran Nath's saying, "Souls travel in caravans." And if music is indeed a universal language, then Kronos' spiritual journey has been to find like-souled people.

arranged by Osvaldo Golijov. Inspired by the idea of the ancient Roman province of Pannonia, which now includes parts of Austria, Croatia, Slovenia, and Hungary, the CD is also a metaphor for the porousness of musical and cultural boundaries. And though these pieces come from many different places, they're linked by 2 things, strong pulse and firm tonal centers.

Full gallop

Two of the most visceral selections are "Turceasca" ("Turkish Song") by Sapo Perapaskero (birthdate unknown) and the Romanian gypsy collective Taraf de Haidouks, and "Gallop of a Thousand Horses" by the Iranian composer Kayhan Kalhor (1963-). The Taraf — two violins, two accordions, cymbalum and double bass — and Kronos revel in Perapaskero's dramatic colors, hard-driving rhythms and shifting textures, which range from strings alone to furious scales and wheezing chords on cymbalum and accordion which sound like music for a chase scene in a silent film. Complex rhythms dominate Kalhor's piece, played here by the Quartet and the composer on komancheh (spike fiddle) and Ziya Tabassian on tombak (goblet drum).

The Lebanese Ali Jihad Racy

Terry Riley (1935-) offers a memorial piece for Harrington's son, which was the hit of Kronos' Yerba Buena Center concert last year, and they perform the middle slow movement of this 3-part quartet, "Cortejo funebre en el Monte Diablo," here. Despite an odd beginning section made from synth-produced samples, it's nevertheless affecting and expertly written for strings, the fruit of Riley's long and intensive work with the group over many years.

"Bannonia Boundless" by Yugoslav composer Aleksandra Vrebalov (1970-) is an amalgam of gypsy ideas, and it has a suitably rough and tumble quality, with a big solo for Dutt and bent pitches galore. All of the other pieces on *Caravan* work perfectly well. And I should mention Bay Area resident Zakir Hussain's contribution on tabla to "Tonight is the Night" by Rahul Dev Burman (1939-1994). All of these seemingly disparate pieces make an engaging and coherent program. Souls do indeed travel in caravans. ▼

The Kronos Quartet performs with soprano Dawn Upshaw on Sunday, May 7 at 7 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. For tickets, call (510) 642-9988.

BOOKS

'Happy' talk

Gerald Clarke on his Garland biography

by Bradley David

Soon after the release of his critically-acclaimed 1988 book about Truman Capote, biographer Gerald Clarke decided to take a bit of a risk with his next subject. In Judy Garland, he chose an icon whose fabled life had already been exhaustively documented in an endless stream of books and articles.

After reading virtually everything that had ever been written about her, however, Clarke concluded that none of Garland's biographers had succeeded in painting an accurate and complete portrait of this famously complex woman, who died in 1969 from a drug overdose, at the age of 47.

"I didn't want to do it if the definitive book had already been done," says Clarke. "What I discovered was that, when I read the books, Judy did not come through to me as a reader. There were a lot of facts and figures, but I didn't really get a picture of Judy. And a lot of the things that had been written already were either wrong or they hadn't been explored fully."

He discovered, for instance, that no writer had ever thoroughly researched the background of Garland's beloved father, a vaudeville performer from Tennessee named Frank Gumm, whose homosexuality had only been speculated about in other Garland biographies. Clarke uncovered documentation indicating that Gumm's fondness for teenage boys had caused him to be run out of two towns: Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Judy was born, and Lancaster, California, where she spent much of her childhood.

"I really started from scratch," says Clarke, 62, whose *Get Happy: The Life of Judy Garland* hit book-

stores in late March. Clarke, who was a senior writer at *Time* magazine before penning his best-selling biography of Capote, spent ten years writing the Garland book, interviewing over 500 people and meticulously documenting his research in over 1,200 source notes found in the back of the book. Among the author's most important finds was Garland's own unfinished autobiography, which had been gathering dust for decades in the archives at Columbia University.

Clarke's book finally puts to rest any doubts about the fact that two of Garland's five husbands — Vincente Minnelli and Mark Herron — were gay. In the case of the notoriously effeminate Minnelli, Garland once caught him in bed with another man.

"It took me a long time to find out about Vincente," says Clarke. "It wasn't easy, but I didn't want to just repeat the rumors without proof. I talked to James Lloyd, who was a great friend of Lester Gaba, who was Vincente's near-companion for several years in the '30s. Then Artie Shaw told me that a couple of his friends told him that they had had a little 'do' with Vincente, as they called it."

Herron, Garland's fourth husband, agreed to meet with Clarke but would not submit to a formal interview because he said he was writing his own book (Herron has since died of lung cancer). One particularly memorable passage in Clarke's book reveals that, while married to Garland, Herron had an affair with Peter Allen, who was married at the time to Garland's daughter Liza Minnelli.

"After his divorce from Judy, Herron went back to Henry Brandon, a famous character actor who appeared in *Auntie Mame*," says Clarke. "They lived together until Brandon's death 24 years later."

Garland's affair with Tyrone Power is also chronicled in Clarke's book.

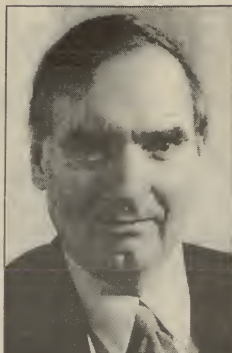
"She knew about his sexuality, but Tyrone Power, I gather, was a genuine bisexual," says Clarke. "He really did seem to enjoy women and men, and I talked to people of both sexes who went to bed with him."

While Clarke was able to speak with many of the key players in Garland's life, third and fifth husbands Sid Luft and Mickey Deans among them, he wasn't successful in convincing Garland's famous daughters to cooperate.

"I sent them copies of my Capote book and letters saying it would be the same kind of book — honest and serious," Clarke remembers. "Liza wrote back, or her publicist did, saying nicely that she was sorry but that she didn't want to talk about her mother anymore. Lorna [Luft] never even bothered to respond. But from the interviews I've seen with those two, I think that the myth of their mother has overtaken them as well. I don't think they know the truth about their mother."

Mouth full

Clarke's brilliance as a biographer is in his ability to reveal extremely personal information about his subject without succumbing to lurid sensationalism. Still, the book supplies plenty of anecdotes for future cocktail conversation. In one passage, for instance, Clarke tells of one of Gar-



Author Gerald Clarke

land's lovers who is said to have made her sing "Over The Rainbow" after performing oral sex on him, just so he could "hear those famous words sung through a mouthful of his semen."

"I thought long and hard about that story, and I put it in for a reason," says Clarke. "I thought it really symbolized her willingness to humiliate herself with men."

Making it abundantly clear that Garland was essentially heterosexual, Clarke does write about several of her lesbian encounters and concludes that she was briefly involved with an MGM publicist named Betty Asher, who served as her bridesmaid when she married Vincente Minnelli.

"They were very close, and whenever Judy had an emotional problem on the set, Betty Asher would instantly appear to calm her down," says Clarke. "For a time they shared an apartment, and there were lots of rumors about the two of them. I talked to Betty Asher's brother, and he con-

firmed that yes, his sister had had affairs with women. Whether she did with Judy is impossible to say, but it's probable if not certain."

Clarke's book refuses to engage in the usual psychobabble about why Garland has always had such a large gay following, and it doesn't even mention the popular notion that Garland's death somehow sparked the Stonewall Riots.

"I didn't investigate it fully, because it seemed clear to me it was a coincidence," says Clarke. "I've heard people who were at Stonewall talk about this, and they say nobody talked about Judy Garland that night."

Asked who his next subject will be, Clarke laughs. "There isn't going to be one. I'll write another book, but not another biography. I'm going to write a novel. I've sort of laid it out, and it's set in Hollywood and Shanghai in 1949."

While Clarke acknowledges that the initials in the dedications of both his books ("To L.A.S., for faith and fortitude") belong to his "partner of many years," he isn't crazy about the idea of being labeled a "gay writer."

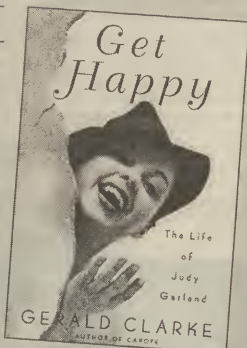
"I don't see that it has anything to do with my writing about Judy Garland or Truman Capote," he says. "I don't see why a heterosexual couldn't write about a gay person, and vice versa, or a woman write about a man, or vice versa. I have no real secrets — I just don't think that people, and writers particularly, should be categorized." ▼

REVIEW

Last word on Judy

by Bradley David

Get Happy: The Life of Judy Garland by Gerald Clarke; Random House, \$29.95



As with his previous book on Truman Capote, which spent 13 weeks on the New York Times Bestseller List (a record for a literary biography), Gerald Clarke's masterful new work on Judy Garland is destined to be almost universally accepted as the "definitive" biography of its subject. Similar in style to the Capote book, *Get Happy* is a no-nonsense, strictly chronological account of an extraordinary life.

With no preface or introduction of any kind, the book's first chapter begins with the story of Judy's parents. Clarke's compelling portraits of Frank and Ethel Gumm and their behavior towards their daughter set the stage for understanding the scope of Judy's lifelong problems in the areas of money, romance, and substance abuse. Clarke rarely attempts to be a psychologist, instead relying on his penetrating prose to convey the facts and allow the reader to draw the obvious conclusions. Clarke's writing is descriptive without tangling itself in excessive details, and elegant without being pretentious.

Taken out of context, any of the anecdotes in Clarke's book might seem tabloidesque, but taken as a whole, the book weaves a thoughtful and richly engaging epic about this complicated artist considered by some to be the greatest entertainer who ever lived. The handsome volume features on its cover a 1952 black-and-white photo taken by Richard Avedon of a radiant Judy with her tipped black fedora, from the "Get Happy" scene in *Summer Stock*. ▼

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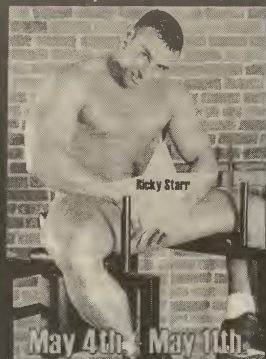
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Friday - 7 Man Show @ 9:00pm

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Saturday - 10 Man Show @ 9:00pm

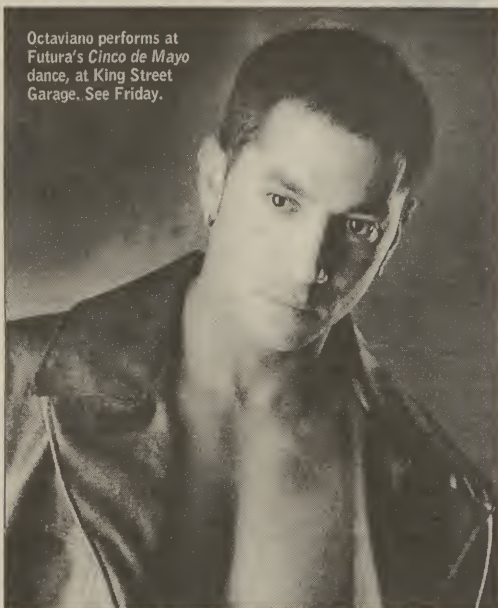
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OUT & ABOUT

Octaviano performs at Futura's *Cinco de Mayo* dance, at King Street Garage. See Friday.



Calendare by Mark Mardon

The Q-spirits cometh

It is with some trepidation I approach the topic of gay spirituality. Wading into these waters can be hazardous. Beyond every twist and turn in the current of beliefs lie whirlpools of ego ready to suck in even those aspiring to sainthood.

That's why I have to cautiously respect Christian de la Huerta, author of *Coming Out Spiritually* (1999), who has long been waging a crusade to spread the gospel of queer spirituality. As the founder and driving force behind *Q-Spirit*, he attempts to embody and perpetuate the organization's mission "to reclaim the spiritual legacy of GLBT persons. While honoring all spiritual traditions, we create and support communal experiences which serves to deepen their sense of sacred identity and empower them to fulfill crucial roles as spiritual activists in the planetary healing."

De la Huerta's book dives headlong into shallow egalitarianism. It attempts to treat each spiritual/religious tradition with equal respect, highlighting the various faiths' strengths and faults in relationship to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning people. It examines the soul of the queer community, and finds it bursting with love — if only we could return to our spiritual roots to let it all out. Really, we're all shamans at heart.

The quest is noble, but at the same time queer spirituality is in danger of being organized and represented to the mainstream in ways that ought raise people's eyebrows. As the leader of a tax-exempt organization with global ambitions, de la Huerta operates on a grand stage, taking part in national and international conferences and fundraisers in New York, Los Angeles, and other far-flung locales. His professionalism has to be admired. It also makes one question: Is queer spirituality now becoming a career choice?

A chance to assess some of the movement's ideas and personalities is coming up in Los Angeles on May 20, when Tumescence and the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center present "Gay Spirit Conference: A Day of Personal and Community Renewal for Gay Men." There de la Huerta joins renowned authors and lecturers Mark Thompson and Will Roscoe, along with theater artist David Cohen, in "looking at the world of inner personal growth and the well-being of our community through the eyes of gay-centered consciousness." That the event confines itself to men speaks volumes about us queer spirits. We may embrace the universe, but we mostly do it through embracing our own kind. ▼

"Gay Spirit Conference" takes place in Los Angeles at The Village at Ed Gould Plaza, on May 20. \$59 preregistration; \$69 door. Call (323) 860-7300.



Author Christian de la Huerta

Fri 5

Jon Sims Center

AIIRspace artist in residence and acclaimed drag performer Trauma Flintstone leads a cast of five in a workshop production of "Return to the Caffè Cino," a recreation of the prolific gay theatre from New York City's Lower East Side in the pre-Stonewall era. With five terse, one-act plays by Lanford Wilson, Tom Eyen, Terrence McNally, George Yip, and Robert Patrick. Plays that forged a new gay aesthetic, that "examine the butch-femme dynamic in gay male relationships, ageism, sadomasochism and self identity." An evening of tragicomedy from the 1960s, viewed from an early 21st century perspective. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8:30pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.).

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project

"Out By Myself," a queer festival of one-woman shows. Tonight, Part II: Aruna Subramanian (dance); Deb Wright (monologue celebrating lesbian history); Rev. Colette Jackson (performance art, spoken word, drumming, audio tape, straight jacket); Linda Rose-McRoy (work in progress about being a non-bio lesbian mom); and Audrey Lehmann (a piece exploring internalized racism from a white woman's perspective). Directed by Claudia L. Vierra Allen. \$14 adv.; \$17 door. 8pm. Also on May 6, 18, 19 & 20. 2940 16th St. #216-C. Tix at Mama Bears Women's Bookstore, Oakland and A Different Light Bookstore. 863-2989. Surf: www.lunasea.org

Studio @ Rhino

Opening night: "Two Days of Grace at Middleham," a new play by First Seen founding member Toni Press-Coffman. The story offers a revisionist take on King Richard III, juxtaposing the relationship between Richard and his wife Anne with a 20th century gay relationship, exploring the unchanging nature of the human heart and the impact of history on contemporary life. Directed by Leslie Martinson; featuring Jonathan Ingbrington as Richard III. \$15-\$18. 8:30pm (5pm & 8pm Sat.). Thru May 27. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Punch Line Comedy Club

Laugh gaily with Scott Capurro and Bridget Schwarz. \$12. 9pm & 11pm. 444 Battery St. 397-7573. Tix at Ticketmaster.

California Club

Live Art Auction to benefit AIDS Ride 7, presented by Suzanne Agasi and Julio Chacon. Paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics and mixed media by up-and-coming artists. To benefit both the SF-to-LA and the New York AIDS Rides. \$20 donation. 6-8pm preview, live jazz, and cocktails; 8pm live auction. RSVP required: 876-1519 or email Suzanne_Agasi@hotmail.com.

quired: 876-1519 or email Suzanne_Agasi@hotmail.com.

Atelier 142 Gallery

Opening reception: "The Landscape," featuring new works by James Scott Geras and Daniel Tousignant. Plus works by Claire Arnaud, Nancy Ericson, David Faulk, and Lena Maybaum. Champagne & chocolate. Free. 4:30-9pm. 142 Fillmore (at Waller). Reservations required: 861-8216 or email Atelier142@AOL.com.

SFMOMA

Opening: "Magritte," 70 works highlighting Belgian artist René Magritte's investigation of painting as representation and the relationship between language and images, words and objects, rather than his links to Surrealism. Drawn from an exhibition organized by the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark. \$9 (\$6 seniors; \$5 students). 11am-6pm (till 9pm Thu.; closed Wed.). Thru Sept. 5. 151 Third St. 357-4000. Surf: www.sfmoma.org

848 Performance Space

"Big Love: An Evening of Plus Sized Prose (And Those Who Love Them)," in which Hanne Blank and company will cut through the crap of prejudice and disinformation to give us the straight (and not-so-straight) dope on plus-sized sex. Blank is the author of *Big Love: A Sourcebook on Sex for People of Size*. With fat-positive erotic writers Marilyn Wann, M. Christina, Simon Sheppard, and Sondra Solovay. Emceed by Thomas S. Roche. 7:30pm. 848 Divisadero St. (at Fulton). 922-2385.

Palace of Fine Arts

SFJazz "World Fusion Showcase," featuring world grooves combined with hot jazz riffs. Tonight: The Jow Zawinul Syndicate and the Richard Bona Group. \$18, \$26 & \$35 (Gold Circle). 8pm. Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, Lyon & Bay (Marina District). Tix at BASS (776-1999) or online at www.sfjazz.org.

Esta Noche

Cinco de Mayo Celebration with Mexican show and tequila drinks. Glamour abounds. 9pm-3am. 3079 Sixteenth St. (btwn Mission & Valencia). 861-5757.

King Street Garage

Futura hosts its annual *Cinco de Mayo* dance, featuring entertainer Octaviano live on stage performing his high-energy dance and songs, plus Mexican recording artist Lourdes de Montecristo and Mariachi Mexicanismo. With DJs Eduardo and Kahil on the turntables. \$15. 10pm-3:30am. 21 + w/D. 174 King St. (at 3rd St.). 665-6715.

Bench & Bar, Oakland

Latin Explosion presents "The Grand Pachanga," a *Cinco de Mayo* celebration with DJs Jorge and Keith, tasty (yum!) Latin go go boys, and Mexican appetizers. Wet lube giveaways. 9pm-2am. 21 + w/D. 120 11th St. (510) 444-2266.

Sat 6

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Rocky Ridge hike in Las Trampas Park and enjoy the ridges and peaks with beautiful views of the surrounding country. It's a moderate 12-mile hike with a 1,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410 or surf www.sfhiking.com.

Randall Museum

"Festival on the Hill," an annual family festival on the Corona Heights Hill, which comes alive with art and science activities, giant puppets, kite-flying, crafts, sundials, live music and more. Drinks and hot dogs available; picnicking encouraged. All ages. \$4. 11am-3pm. 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). 554-9600.

Yerba Buena Center

San Francisco Chamber Singers present world premieres by composers Mark Winges and Paul Chihara. Featuring the 20-member professional vocal ensemble under the direction of Robert Geary. Winges' new work, *Wishes Night*, was inspired by and uses the poetry of fellow San Franciscan Denise Newman. Chihara's *Under the Greenwood Tree* borrows text from Shakespeare, Marlowe and Fletcher. \$20 (\$15 students). 8pm. 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). 771-3352.

Yerba Buena Gardens

"Jazz in the Gardens," sponsored by *Mother Jones* magazine, The Body Shop, and Blue Note Records. Featuring recording artists Charlie Hunter, Patricia Barber, Stefan Harris and the Tin Hat Trio. Free. 12:30pm-5pm. 701 Mission St.

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents the risky, exhibitionistic 16mm films of Caveh Zahedi, "I Don't Hate Las Vegas Anymore" (a very curious documentary in which Zahedi attempts to prove the existence of God by trying to get his father and half-brother to take Ecstasy with him in Las Vegas) and "A Little Stiff." \$5. 8:30pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

First Congregational Church, Alameda

Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, under the direction of Dick Kramer, presents its debut concert, "Unity and Musical Diversity." \$10. 8pm. Also on at 7pm on Sun., May 7 at First Congregational Church, Oakland, 2501 Harrison St. (510) 466-5474.

Cafe Macondo

"Gay Geeks," the gay/bi/lesbian haven for intellectuals and visionaries. It's a monthly social and marathon talkfest lasting 3-4 hours, covering every topic imaginable, from archeology to comparative religions to philosophy to science (it is not a computer group). Meets first Saturday of each month. Free. 2-6pm. 3159 16th St. (btwn Valencia & Guerrero). Info: Michael at (510) 351-5500.

Castro Theatre

Good Vibrations and San Francisco Sex Information (SFSI) present a National Masturbation Month event, "Annie Sprinkle's 'Herstory of Porn' Show," in which the diva of erotic performance and her guests deliver a film-diary of Sprinkle's infamous sexploits. \$12 adv.; \$15 door. 1-3pm.

Doug Stevens & The Outband unveil their new album, *From Christopher to Castro*, at Sundance Saloon. See Sunday.



"Big Love" sexpert Hanne Blank and her plus-sized friends extol the virtues of fat sex at 848 Community Space. See Friday.



Tix/info: 1-800-BUY VIBE or at Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St.

El Rio

Gaze presents a Salsa dance party for women, featuring Dulce Mambo, an 11-piece Salsa *feminina* band. A benefit for the Avon Breast Cancer 3 Day. Dancing, a mercado-style tortilla buffet with traditional and vegetarian Mexican food; free drink tickets; dance lessons by Be-Boppin' Babes, raffle prizes and more. \$35 advance; \$40 door. 4-8pm. 21+w/D. 3158 Mission St. (at Cesar Chavez). 820-7449. Surf: www.gazepresents.com

Asia SF

iAzucar! presents "The Recovery Party," featuring guest DJ Mike, go gos, complementary appetizers and more. 9pm-2am. 21+w/D. 201 9th St. (at Howard). 675-9763.

Sun 7

Mission District

"The Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival," featuring three stages, musical acts ranging from salsa to hip hop to Mariachi bands, a classic car show (bombs & lowriders), international food, arts, and crafts, and some 60,000 spectators. Honoring the Mexican state of Zacatecas. Parade starts at 10am at 24th & Bryant streets and snakes through the Mission, winding up at 18th & Bryant. Festival stretches along Harrison St. btwn 16th & 22nd sts. \$5 (\$2 seniors). 826-1401.

Esta Noche

Celebrate after the Cinco de Mayo parade with a Mexican drag show and special drinks. 5pm. 3079 Sixteenth St. (btwn Mission & Valencia). 861-5757.

A Different Light

Reading & book signing: *Rough Stuff: Tales of Gay Men, Sex and Power*, edited by Simon Sheppard. With contributors Bill Brent, Pat Califia, Jack Fritscher, Kevin Killian, Thomas S. Roche, horehound stillpoint, and M. Christian. Free. 3:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

The Out By Myself cast offer up a queer festival of one-womyn shows at Luna Sea. See Friday.



Wed 10

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute workshops begin: "Challenging the Myth: A Body Image Workshop for Lesbians and Bisexual Women" with Linda Richman (2 Wednesdays; 6:30-9:30pm; \$35); and "From Our Lives, For Our Lives: A Discussion of Sexual Violence for Queer Women of Color" with Maiana Minahal and Lisa Fujie Parks (2 Wed.; 6:30-9:30pm; free). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Registration: 552-7200; surf: www.gayglobalsf.com/harveymilk.

ACT/Geary Theater

Opening night: American Conservatory Theater presents "Edward II," Christopher Marlowe's classic tragedy about the 14th century king whose love for a common man cost him his throne and his life. A bold, contemporary interpretation directed by Mark Lamos, featuring Malcolm Gets in the title role. \$14-\$55. 8pm. 415 Geary St. 749-2228.

Theatre Artaud

Opening night: "Marx in Soho" by writer-historian Howard Zinn, performed by Brian Jones. A witty, inventive exploration of Karl Marx's life and ideas. An irrepressible agitator in the Afterlife, he demands the authorities provide him a chance to clear his name. Through a bureaucratic error, Marx is sent back to present-day Soho, New York, rather than to his old stomping ground in Soho, London. \$18-\$22. 8pm (5pm & 8:30pm Sat.; 2pm & 7:30pm Sun.). Thru June 4. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

The Metro

Comedy returns to the Castro in "Metro Madness Comedy Showcase," hosted by Maggie Dolan. No cover. 9pm. 3600 16th St. (at Market).

Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center

"Club Euphoria," a transgender social/support group providing a safe and nurturing space for making new friends and discussion. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. Info: Tamika Gonzales, 292-3420, ext. 351.

Thu 11

Verba Buena Center

Cinemathèque presents "De Profundis: An Evening with Lawrence Brose." Filmmaker Brose screens his mesmerizing hour-long investigation of Oscar Wilde's project of Transgressive Aesthetics. Incorporating 1920s home movies and early gay male erotica along with images from Radical Faerie gatherings, radical drag performances, and images of confinement. Also "An Individual Desires Solitude," Brose's elegy to a lost lover's heroic struggle with AIDS. \$7. 7:30pm. 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). Info: 558-8129. Surf: www.cinemathèque.org

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Reading & book signing: *Between Sodom and Eden: A Gay Journey*, by Lee Walzer. Co-sponsored by A Different Light Bookstore. Free. 7:30pm. 496 Dolores St. Info: 431-0891.

Modern Times Bookstore

Down There Press 25th anniversary party, featuring a host of authors involved over the years with San Francisco's oldest publisher of sex-positive books. With Joni Blank of Good Vibrations, Susie Bright, Jack Morin, Carol Queen and others. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. Festive attire encouraged.

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Check Out BAR Talk on Page 50!

Check Out BAR Talk on Page 50!

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SINCE 1979

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Capital capers

by Mister Marcus

In the latest edition of American Brotherhood Weekend, which took place in Washington, D.C. April 27-30, several hundred leather people gathered at the Washington Plaza, displaying the essence of "family" values that is universal in the leather community. It was an eye-opener for those who still harbor a narrow definition of family, who do not espouse inclusion, brotherhood and diversity.

Some 14 leather people competed for honors in three categories: American Leatherman, American Leatherwoman and American Leatherboy. Five men attempted to outdo one another: Bob Forbes, Dean Ogren, Christoph Malvaney, Rob Carabelli and Daniel Premack.

Three women did their darnedest to be tops: Paula Smith, MaDaddy Weebie, and Heather J. Six boys submitted themselves to scrutiny: Darrell Moyers, Randie Smith, Darryl LaFleche, Roger "Boy Butch" Arnold, Patrick "Puppy" Steele and Kyle Taylor.

In their presentations, the contestants put on displays that elicited outrageous laughter along with tears of both joy and sadness.

With all due respect to the efforts of the men and the women, who performed their best, the six boys outdid them. The young guns presented a pastiche of varied views and interests. Their responses in interviews and their on-stage appearances all made strong impressions, making it extremely difficult for both the judges and the enthusiastic audience to select a favorite. Their speeches, on-stage questions and fantasies resulted in a standing, two-minute ovation. Too bad there were no Drummer contestants present.

The ABW producers couldn't have been prouder of last year's incumbents, Scott Reikofski, Schelli Dittman and Jerry Acosta, who performed stupendously during their year with the titles. Their stepping-aside (no, not stepping down) speeches were poignant, thankful, and inspiring. As demonstrated by Scott, Schelli and Jerry, who criss-crossed the country during the past year subtly displaying their mom, dad and son unity, "family values" is not a new concept at all in the leather community. The image they conveyed to leather enclaves everywhere



Meet the American Brotherhood Weekend title winners: Dean Ogren of Chicago (standing, left), American Leatherman; Paula Smith of Charleston, SC, American Leatherwoman and (kneeling) Randle Smith of Green River, NY, American Leatherboy. They were chosen last Sunday, April 30 in Washington, DC

surely sank in.

The final tallies were very close. Judges Scott, Schelli and Jerry joined with Judy Tallwing McCarthy, Scott Rodriguez, Daddy Philip Turner and myself to undertake what was probably the most difficult judging scenario I have encountered lately.

All the contestants were strong. The fantasies they described were flawless. Again, the boys demonstrated their absolute understanding of the concept. The airport security sequence imagined by Boy Darrell was hilarious, as was the fantasy about a boy giving birth to a baby pig and a bear (you had to be there). Boy Kyle Taylor's Leather Millionaire game was equally sidesplitting.

The women were not to be outdone. MaDaddy Weebie imagined herself as a horny, horny man making a move on a voluptuous woman. Christoph Malvaney's "Deliverance" sequence garnered many laughs, as did Rob Carabelli's

li's horse training spoof. Paula Smith raised the rafters with her Harper Valley PTA skit (she's a mother of two girls, so she knows about dealing with kids in school).

When all the scores were added up, the outcome was as follows:

The American Leatherboy 2000 title went to Randie Smith of Green Island, New York (he's also North Atlantic Leather Boy);

The American Leatherwoman 2000 is Paula Smith, a spunky woman from Charleston, South Carolina;

The American Leatherman 2000 is Dean Ogren of Chicago. Dean has long been associated with the IML staff and was recently honored by the mayor of Chicago for his outstanding contributions to his community.

As for the runners-up, for the boy title they were Kyle Taylor and Darrell Moyers; for the woman, MaDaddy Weebie and Heather J; and the leatherman runner-ups were Rob Carabelli and Christoph Malvaney.

page 45 ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, May 4

Mr. San Francisco Drummer and Drummer Boy contest at Daddy's tonight. It will be emceed by Lenny Broberg. It's a \$7 beer bust and auction. Applications are available now. The outgoing incumbent, Eric Keith, is producing — thanks, dude, for a great year with the title.

Weekend, May 5-7

The Utica Tri's MC celebrates their 14th anniversary with a weekend-long party with dinners, brunches, barbecue and a great time.

In Augusta, Maine, at Papa Joe's, that cute Mark Fish steps aside to make way for his successor to the Mr. Maine Leather title. Sponsored by the Kindred MC of Maine. Click on: www.geocities.com/Kindredweb99.

Saturday, May 6

Golden Gate Guards MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star. No details' at my deadline.

The San Franciscans MC are allegedly celebrating their anniversary at the Eagle. Again, no details.

In London? It's a big, big party for the 2000 Sex Maniacs Ball, with the Erotic Oscars, a carnival of lust, and more. Click on www.afcorg.uk/ball/default.htm.

The Pennsylvania Drummer and Drummer Boy contests take place at Leather Central in Pittsburgh, with Frank Nowicki manning the mike. Expect surprises and hunks.

Sunday, May 7

Cal Eagles MC overnighter to Bear Valley Lodge. Yet again, no details.

Thursday, May 18

The final spot on the 2001 bare chest calendar is up for grabs tonight at the Powerhouse Bar, at 2100, when Mr. December 2001 will be chosen. Last chance for next year's calendar!

Stinko de Mayo

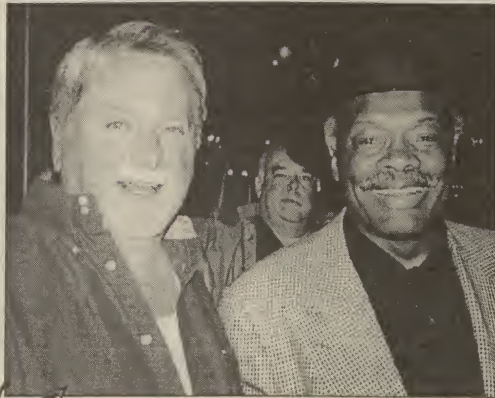
by Sweet Lips

It's hard to believe another Cinco de Mayo is here. The parade in the Mission is on Sunday morning, May 7, and there's a festival that day in Civic Center. Club Rendezvous has its Cinco party on Friday, May 5, featuring the fabulous Cuervo Boys, 7-10 p.m., Mexican treats and Tequila specials.

Also at the Club: Glen Ostergard's birthday party, Sat., May 6 at 8 p.m. It's in conjunction with National Masturbation Day! And don't miss Men of Exotica male strippers, Sunday, May 7 at 7 p.m. \$10 cover includes two cocktails; no cover before 6 p.m.

Yes, that was Mayor Willie Brown along with 250 of Robbie Robinson's friends helping Robbie celebrate his 65th birthday at the Giraffe.

Sad news: Dolly Dale had throat surgery last Monday. Dolly's doing okay, and would love some cards. Call me or drop



Robbie Robinson and Mayor Willie Brown at the Giraffe.

in at the Club for the address. Love ya, Dolly.

Well, Dick Deemer has left for the Fire Island Pines, where he has a 5-month job. No, he didn't buy a house in Vallarta, but it was close.

May 8 is Steve Suss's b'day, and there's a big party planned at the Embers/Avenue in Portland. And can you believe that the beautiful "Silver Fox" Ms. Roberta Bobba will be 70 on Sat., May 13? Congrats, honey, but watch it, you're catching up to me, and that's not easy to do. ▼

Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

The audience roared approval at the outcome, and the enthusiasm spread to celebrations all over the capital. Everywhere the leathermen went, they received cheers from attendees of the Millennium March on Washington.

Like a trooper, the elegant IMs.L. 96 Jill Carter made the trek to Washington to present another unsung hero award. This time the honor was bestowed on a truly deserving person, a young man from upstate New York, Jeff Baxter. Part of the ABW family, he works continuously and devotedly (like all the winners) behind the scenes with little or no recognition. Another standing ovation was well deserved.

Attendance at ABW 2000 was almost double that of the 1999 contest, and a lot of credit for this increase can be attributed to Scott, Schelli and Jerry.

Millennium yawn

While all this was going, thousands of people descended upon the capital for the Millennium March on Washington, which was nowhere near the size of the 1993 march, which had far more impact.

Some (and I emphasize, some) leather people attended some of the MMOW events but, frankly,



Int'l. Ms. Leather 96 Jill Carter, right, presented another Unsung Hero Award to Jeff Baxter of Upstate New York at the ABW contest in Washington, DC Last Sunday, April 30.

their enthusiasm was limited; the event just never quite fired up. Washington television stations and other media concentrated, as always, on the drag queens, and news programs carried clips from the speakers on the main stage. That was about it.

For the most part, leather people kept to themselves. I suppose you can say everyone had a great

time in Washington. IML Bruce Chopping was there to enjoy himself in the waning days of his year with the title. Teamed up with the irrepressible Mike Siemer, they managed to terrorize everyone in the District, including an "innocent" hunk named Glenn from some township in New Jersey. Bruce went back into the closet — well, what's a man to do when he meets a hunk with 10 cases of Coors Light in his room?

There's nothing like Spring in the capital. Though the cherry blossoms were brown and frayed, millions of tulips delighted the eye forming a rainbow pastiche that somehow conveyed that mother nature too, was demonstrating gay-pride colors.

And another thing...

Since I was out of the city from late Wednesday night until Monday afternoon, anything and everything that happened in between here at home will have to wait until next week. But know, dear readers, that you will get the word in detail. In the meantime, keep living, keep laughing and keep loving. Just do it in leather! And while you're site-seeing, you really should check out: www.leatherpage.com. ▼



Paula Smith (far right) bound and gagged a hapless "teacher" in her side-splitting "Harper Valley PTA" fantasy at the Improv Comedy Club in Washington, DC last Sunday, April 30. The routine helped her win the American Leatherwoman 2000 title.

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A tendency towards motion

Merce Cunningham Dance Company

by Aimée Ts'ao

On Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company will be making their annual appearance at Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, presenting a Cunningham classic from 1958, *Summerspace*, set to Morton Feldman's *Ixion* for piano, and with scenic design and costumes by Robert Rauschenberg. *Summerspace* also has the distinction of being set on the New York City Ballet in 1966 at Balanchine's request. Out of the active repertoire since 1976, this important work was revived in the summer of 1999 by the NYCB, under current director Peter Martins, and will be shown again by them in June. It will be interesting to compare the performances of the NYCB to Merce's own company.

In contrast, the Cunningham company will also offer the West Coast premiere of *Interscape*, commissioned by La Fenice, Venice, which debuted in April this year. With music by the late John Cage, a longtime collaborator with the company, this piece, like *Summerspace*, features décor and costumes by Rauschenberg. The real marvel is seeing works that combine the genius of these two artists, but which were created 42 years apart. There will also be an exhibit of photographs, *Merce Cunningham Dance Company: Past and Present*, in the

lobby, and the audience is encouraged to arrive early to view them on the mezzanine level.

I had certain apprehensions about interviewing the archivist of a major modern dance company. Usually I gently nudge choreographers, directors or dancers to speak about their work, but David Vaughan, who has been associated with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company for over 40 years and is currently archivist at the Cunningham Dance Foundation, presented the chance for me to shift gears and look at the company from a different point of view. A collector of information, Vaughan has written *Merce Cunningham 50 Years*, for which he received a Guggenheim Fellowship, and he's really something of an inside outsider — or maybe an outside insider. His involvement is not the same as Cunningham's with his own artistic process, or that of the dancers responding to Merce as director and choreographer. But as a fly on the wall, he has the opportunity to observe, objectively, the overarching shape of Cunningham's body

of work, which spans more than five decades.

Aimée Ts'ao: How did you manage to condense 47 years of the company's existence into the 28 photographs of this exhibit?

David Vaughan: I did it together with Madeleine Nichols, the curator of the dance collection at the New York Public Library. We went through the collection of photographs in the archives and picked out 28 that we felt were

representative of Merce's work and were also interesting photographs in themselves. We tried to get representative photos of Merce himself in various dances over the years. We did it originally when the company was in the Lincoln Center Festival last summer, for the audience promenade at the New York State Theater, where the company appeared. It turned out to be very useful to take along with us on tour or send in advance, as happened in Berkeley. We had it up in Paris and

other towns in France, Turin in Italy, and also the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

Since you've been with the company for over 40 years and you've seen the evolution of the choreography, dancers, music and décor, can you identify any trends in Merce's development?

On the one hand, I feel that Merce's body of work is just that, a body of work that's almost like seeing one long dance. On the other hand, I think particularly since he started using the computer program forms that he's used for choreography in the last ten years or so, his tendency to-

page 49 ►

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Fassbinder's wild, wild West

'Whity' out on DVD

by Philip Campbell

Without much fanfare, but with amazing speed, Fantoma Films of San Francisco has just released their second DVD transfer, German director Rainer Werner Fassbinder's Western melodrama *Whity*. Their first effort, Alejandro Jodorowsky's "lost" *Fando & Lis*, now in its second pressing, put Fantoma instantly on the map for the care they lavished on an obscure but seminal work by a cult auteur. *Whity* has been given the same royal treatment, but the results are even more impressive because the movie (Fassbinder's fifth) is more accomplished, and clearly documents a unique stage in the career of one of cinema's most influential intellectuals.

Shot in vivid color and expansive Cinemascope on sets owned by Sergio Leone, *Whity* is far more than a Teutonic take on the "spaghetti Western." Cinematographer Michael Ballhaus (*Goodfellas*, *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, *Last Temptation of Christ*, *Wild*, *Wild West*) was embarking on a collaboration with Fassbinder that would later yield a masterpiece like *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*. Their relationship was tumultuous, but you would never guess it by looking at the harmony of text and imagery onscreen.

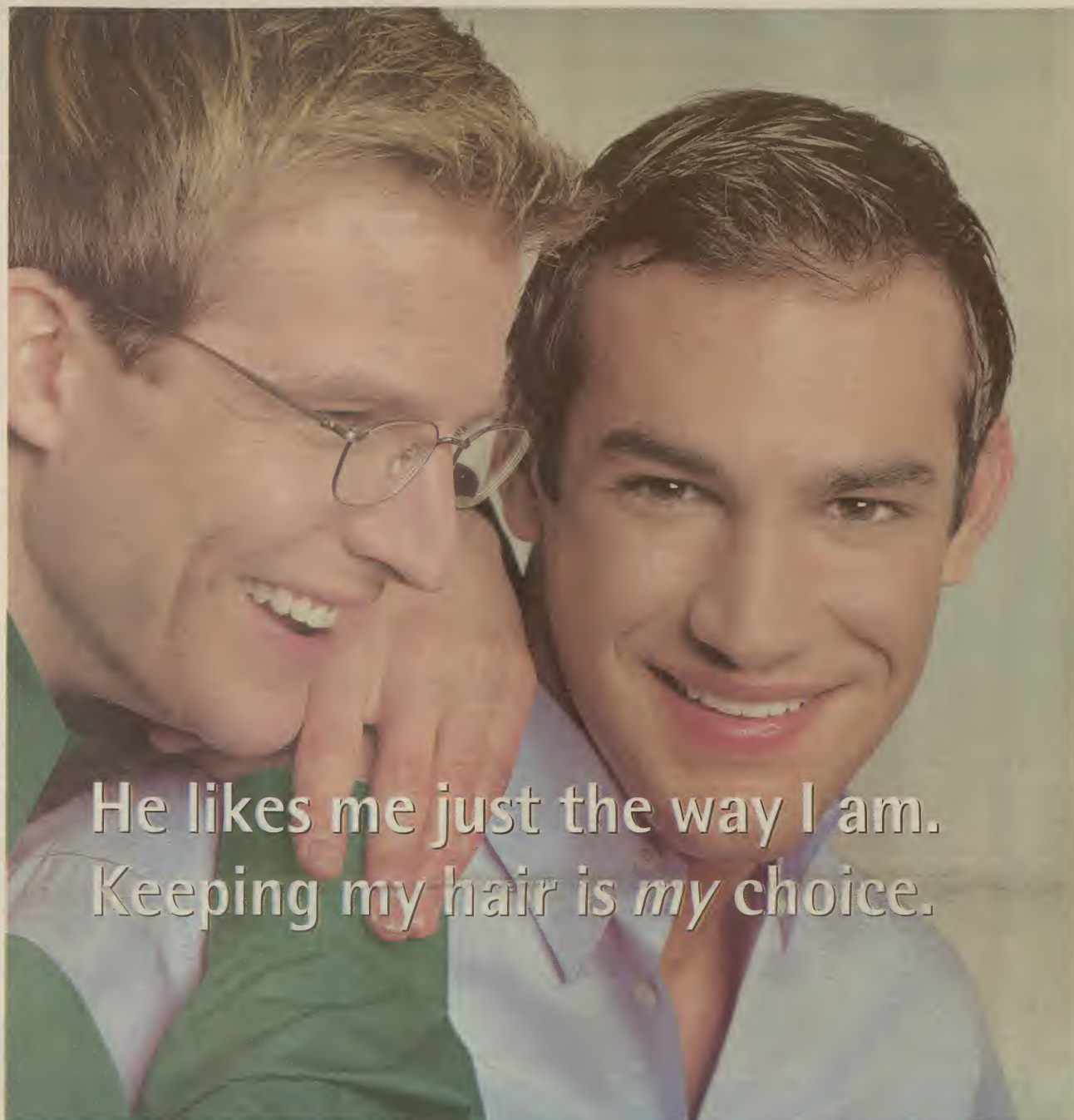
A first viewing of *Whity* may




Hanna Schygulla in *Whity*

take the uninitiated by surprise. An existential and psychologically complex oater filmed at a very slow pace does require more than a little indulgence and suspension of disbelief. There are a few audacious scenes that actually verge perilously close to hilarity. Echoes of Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* (*The Girl of the Golden West*) and Kurt Weill's cabaret Americana waft through Fassbinder's exquisitely European and sometimes inauthentic view of American folklore. Still, the inexorable tread of the story and the amazing stylization of the action have a hypnotic effect that builds to a very believable conclusion.

page 49 ►



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What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area. PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s.

Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel™ Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

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A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

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If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

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Edward II

◀ Arts cover

astonishingly candid exchange for a play written in 1591, the nobleman acknowledge that many great leaders have taken male lovers on the side. But what really troubles them is that Edward flauts it.

"Nobody was 'gay' back then, but Edward was gay," Lamos said. "He has a queer political agenda. He wants that to stand for who he is, not just to sleep with men. Marlowe doesn't really present his men as heroes, but we are making Edward a hero."

As a gay man, Lamos said, "I

don't see how you can be gay and not have an agenda, although I'm not exactly sure it is. A lot of what I think about gays and straights is in the production, and I hope it supports what's in the play."

Strict time

For Lamos, coming to terms with his sexuality was a long and complicated journey. The Chicago native grew up in a strict Lutheran household, and didn't even consider the possibility that he might be gay. "I had feelings, but I thought maybe it's because I was an actor," he said. There was a marriage and divorce, as Lamos pondered the possibility that he was bisexual, before finally "de-

ciding what I like more."

Before he became a director, when Lamos was an actor, "I kept it quiet," he said of his homosexuality, "because it would have been career suicide."

Even after he gave up acting for directing, and he became the valued artistic director of the Hartford Stage, Lamos still moved cautiously from the closet. "I kept a low profile," he said. "You don't want the press to use that against you if you cast a beautiful man or have someone take his shirt off."

Lamos has been partnered with Jerry Jones for the past 20 years, though for years, many of his associates at Hartford Stage had no idea Lamos was in a long-term relationship. "A board member invited me to a dinner party and said bring whomever I'd like. But I didn't think I should bring Jerry. When I got to the dinner, the other guests were Stephen Sondheim and his boyfriend. When I got home, I said to Jerry, 'That's the last time I'm keeping you under wraps.'"

Even as he became more public about his private life, Lamos felt the need to show restraint in what turned up on his stages. "I was worried that audiences would think I was shoving something down their throats," he said.

And sometimes they did think it — and say it. "The marketing department got letters that said, 'Why do we have to be subjected to the sensibilities of a queer?'"

And sometimes there were subtle jabs from his colleagues. "My last professional partner, the managing director, was very heterosexual, and while professing to be supportive, he would say, 'We are getting complaints about how you staged that scene with the boys in *Romeo and Juliet*.'"

But Lamos is now a free man, and his plate has been overflowing since leaving Hartford Stage. A lot of his attention has been directed at staging opera, with productions of *La Bohème* and *Rigoletto* for the San Francisco Opera to his credit, and the recent premiere of a new opera based on



Malcolm Gets holds Christopher Baker in a rehearsal for *Edward II*

The Great Gatsby at the Metropolitan Opera.

There was one serious bump in Lamos' otherwise-charmed recent career. *Fascinating Rhythm*, a revue of Gershwin songs first staged at Hartford Stage, was trounced by critics when it moved to Broadway last year. Among other things, previous supporters of Lamos' work were disappointed that he had "gone commercial."

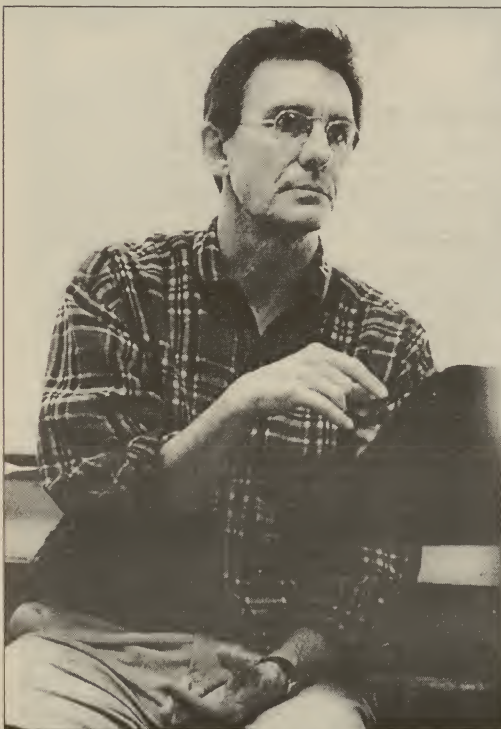
"It was done to be commercial," he said, "but I could deal with the vituperative nature of the press until the producers closed it. I went into a great depression with a loss of confidence. Experience doesn't matter if you

take a hit like that."

Lamos credited his partner with helping him get back on his feet, and from early signs, *Edward II* doesn't appear to be in want of an assured hand.

"I want this to be thrilling theater more than anything else," Lamos said. "I want to go to dangerous ground." ▼

Edward II begins previews at the Geary Theatre on May 4 prior to its May 10 opening, and will run through June 4. Tickets are \$11-\$55. Call (415) 749-2ACT or visit www.act-sfbay.org.



Edward II director Mark Lamos

ARTS

Whity

◀ page 46

Switch to the audio commentary with Ballhaus and actor/producer Ulli Lommel for a second experience of the film, and the initial smiles of humorous incredulity turn to smiles of admiration (and also incredulity) at Fassbinder's remarkable control and provocative willingness to risk an audience's sympathy. There is a consciously Brechtian distancing technique at play that makes the viewer think and allows plenty of time for analysis.

If all this sounds ponderous, the movie is actually very concise at 95 minutes. The choreography of the lushly costumed actors moving zombie-like through the beautiful interiors of set designer Kurt Raab (he won a German

Oscar for his work) creates a rarefied world that often smacks of Greek tragedy and also the American family tragedies of Eugene O'Neill. There is a wonderful score by Peer Rabin, and songs by Rabin with lyrics by Ulli Lommel (in English) that manage to fuse folk melody with a sort of Schoenbergian atonality. Like everything else in this strange work of art, they are jarring, almost funny, but really quite effective. Art songs sung in a saloon — wow! Madeline Kahn would later consciously play it for laughs in *Blazing Saddles*; look for the prototype here.

The cast, a mixture of what would become Fassbinder's stock company and some well-chosen outsiders, are always in synch with the director's vision. No method acting is on display, just a well-drilled obedience. We can look at them like scorpions in a

jar — they are just as fascinating in their mindless deadliness.

Cruel player

The saga revolves around the illegitimate mixed-race son of the sadistic Ben Nicholson. Whity is literally the family's slave, but he holds all the power while everyone pursues him sexually, trying to engage his cooperation in getting rid of the others. Gunther Kaufmann (American GI father and German mother) is absolutely idiomatic in his German speech as the titular hero, and Ballhaus and Lommel say Fassbinder fell in love with him during the shoot. They also say he played the increasingly agonized director with a cruel disregard. Some of that cold indifference shows on film, and his impressive presence makes his character convincing.

Ulli Lommel is the perverse elder son, and he is given a fantastic drag scene, à la *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, that pays conscious homage to Helmut Berger's fishnet stockings in Visconti's *The Damned* (a big influence on Fassbinder). Lommel's makeup, like the other family members, seems to get whiter with a greenish tinge as the film progresses. Only a young and lus-

cious Hanna Schygulla, as the saloon-hall gal who loves Whity and seeks redemption, gets to look humanly attractive. Her character is the only fully sane person in town, and Schygulla also won a German Oscar, for Outstanding Actress.

Katrin Schaake plays the mother and wife. A cool German beauty, she was married to Lommel at the time of the shoot. Fassbinder delighted in the oddity of casting her as her real-life husband's mother. And that brings us to some of the dishier aspects of the audio commentary.

Reuniting in a Los Angeles studio to record their remembrances, Ballhaus and Lommel quickly warm to each other and their task as they spill the beans on the strange goings-on, way back in 1970. They were young men, in awe of Fassbinder and totally dedicated to his mad sort of profligate talent. Ballhaus credits the director with his impressive career, and Lommel remains torn between love and distaste for the man who taught him about life and art, albeit with some very twisted methods. While they were aware of Fassbinder's petty jealousies and world-class neuroses at the time (and his heavy drinking), it was the '70s, after all, and

they were clearly titillated by the experience. They joined in the director's game plan with youthful abandon.

Ulli Lommel introduced Michael Ballhaus to Fassbinder, who immediately sought to sabotage the young cinematographer. Early in the shoot, he gave Ballhaus a Herculean set of tasks and then sat back, predicting disaster. After viewing the first rushes, he careened from the screening room. Lommel thought all was lost, but upon confrontation, Fassbinder shouted, "The man's a fucking genius!" The director then got rip-roaring drunk and missed the next day's shoot. The rest, as they say, is history.

Rainer Werner Fassbinder went on to make some 35 more films, and there are many who consider him one of the greatest film directors of all time. He is actually considered the very greatest in China, of all places. Whether you like him, love him, hate him or have never heard of him, his influence is still felt almost 20 years after his death. *Whity* is an early and perhaps atypical example of his work. Still, it holds up well in this pristine transfer, and, after repeated viewings, one is tempted to call Fassbinder the "fucking genius." ▼

Theatre on CD

◀ page 36

Dorian Harewood, Hal Linden, Maureen McGovern, Michele Lee, Sharon Gless, Malcolm Gets and even Rex Reed, singing songs from musicals such as *Fiddler On The Roof*, *On The Twentieth Century*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Pajama Game*, *She Loves Me*, *Fiorello!*, *Seesaw*, *Damn Yankees*, and *The Life*.

Judy Garland's *Recorded Live and Complete - Carnegie Hall, April 23, 1961* (DCC/EMI-Capitol) was one of the first and best-selling live CDs during the 1960s. On the recently reissued 24 Karat Gold two-disc audiophile set, one can hear what it was that made this milestone recording so spectacular. From her breathtaking performance on the opening song, "When You're Smiling (The Whole World Smiles With You)" to the famous "I forgot the goll darn words" segment of "You Got To Be A Man" to her delightful stage banter through the remaining two dozen songs (including "The Man That Got Away," "Over The Rainbow," "Chicago," and "You Made Me Love You"/"For Me and My Gal"/"The Trolley Song"), this is that rare live CD that transports the listener to his very own seat in the auditorium.

Also recorded live (on opening night, December 8, 1999) is *Minnelli on Minnelli* (Angel), Liza Minnelli's musical stage tribute to the music from her father Vincent Minnelli's films. With costumes by Bob Mackie, musical arrangement and supervision by Billy Stritch and Marvin Hamlisch, and writing and directing by Fred Ebb, any audience lucky enough to be in the theater for the show is lucky indeed. Ms. Minnelli is at her best when singing (the spoken parts are a bit slurred), and hearing her sing songs from films such as *Cabin In The Sky*, *Ziegfeld Follies*, *Meet Me In St. Louis*, *The Band Wagon*, *An American In Paris*, *Kismet*, *Gigi*, and *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever* is an unexpected pleasure.

Buckley up

Since the mid-1980s, Betty Buckley, who has performed on stage in musicals such as *Cats* and *Sunset Boulevard*, has been releasing CDs on which she mixes music of the theater and pop standards from several different decades. *Heart To Heart* (KO) is her latest, and it is every bit as enjoyable as her previous albums. Beginning with the familiar classic "Just The Way You Look Tonight" and moving through Sondheim's "Anyone Can Whistle," Buckley sounds born to sing

this material. Buckley sounds equally comfortable in her performance of more recent standards and songs, such as James Taylor's "Fire and Rain," Joni Mitchell's "I Had A King," and Mary Chapin



Audra McDonald

Carper's "I Am A Town."

Like Betty Buckley, Audra McDonald is a stage-musical performer who has released albums on which she sings the songs of the stage, new and old, in her distinctive soprano. *How Glory Goes* (Nonesuch) is a much more accessible album than 1998's *Way Back To Paradise*. I think this is true because on *How Glory Goes*, McDonald covers both familiar, beloved songs ("Somewhere," "Anyplace I Hang My Hat Is My Home," "A Sleeping Bee," and "The Man That Got Away") alongside songs from newer, more obscure musicals such as *Floyd Collins* and *Violet*. To my delight, she covers "When Did I Fall In Love" from *Fiorello!*, which is also represented on the *Adler, Bock, Coleman* disc.

It's been forty years since Johnny Mathis recorded an album consisting entirely of the music of Broadway. *Mathis On Broadway* (Columbia/JonMat) features songs from Broadway musicals of the '80s and '90s, and with the exception of one minor misstep ("They Live In You" from *The Lion King*), Mathis proves himself to be up to the task. His stirring renditions of "Loving You" (from *Pas-sion*), "Bring Him Home" (from *Les Miz*), "All I Ask of You" (from *Phantom of the Opera*) and "Once Upon a Dream" (from *Jekyll & Hyde*) are all worthy of a standing ovation. Also worth praising are the guest vocals by Betty Buckley on "Children Will Listen" (from *Into The Woods*), "Our Children" (from *Ragtime*), Nell Carter on "Seasons Of Love" (from *Rent*), and Forever Plaid's choral work on "Life Is Just A Bowl Of Cherries" (from *Fosse*). ▼

Merce Dance

◀ page 46

wards complexity has intensified because of the possibility of devising even more complex movement than he did before. People sometimes say that Merce's work is becoming more classical, or becoming more dramatic, but when I think back to what I saw years ago, I would say that those dances were classical, too, or that they were dramatic, so they are not necessarily new developments in Merce's work.

Because he has been around for so many years, there aren't a lot of people who are familiar with his entire career. I really only know the company very well during the slice of time from 1967 to '71. But you know the whole pie, so

what changes do you see over the years, in, say, décor? I particularly remember Warhol's giant silver pillows for *Rainforest*.

Some of the works of that period necessitated carrying very heavy scenic equipment about with us, which we had to stop doing because of the expense. But we are reviving *Rainforest* next year. For *Summerspace*, which we're showing in Berkeley, we had to have the original Rauschenberg backdrop done again, because the first wasn't large enough for the big theaters we perform in now.

The new piece which we just premiered in Washington, DC, called *Interscape*, also has décor by Bob Rauschenberg. It's quite different from anything he ever did before, it's extraordinary. It involves two drops, a front-cloth which is actually a scrim and a

back-cloth with images which he silkscreened onto the material. The scrim is in black and white and goes into color when the dance begins, but it's the same design. He also personally silkscreened the 14 costumes, two for each dancer. Then there is last year's piece, *Biped*, which has digital décor, which is digital images of dancers transferred by motion-capture technology and projected onto the scrim in front. But then you see the live dancers behind the scrim. In a sense, the décor, and for that matter, the music, have evolved over the years as much as the choreography. ▼

Merce Cunningham Dance Company performs May 5-6 at 8 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley. Tickets (\$20-40): call (510) 642-9988.

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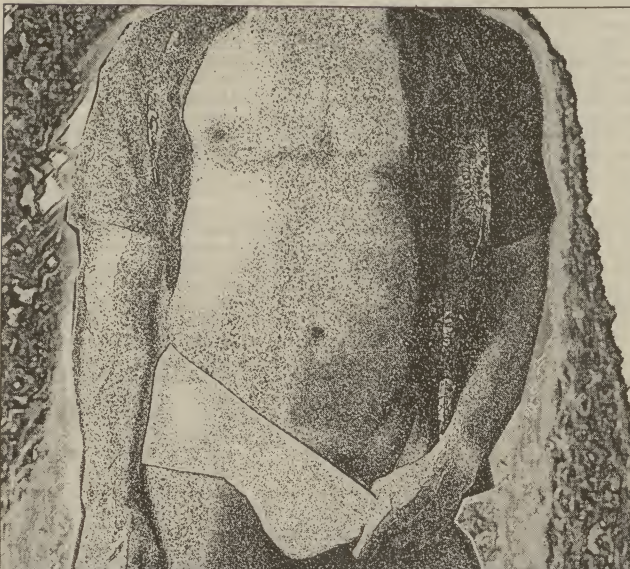


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PARTING GLANCES

Wed Mar 29 Symphony & N-Judah
Lots of eye contact, Me w/son both dark suits. You maroon sweater w/ friend in suit. If not lovers, let's talk & more. Call me. **Lawrence.** ☎ 71788

Bob Of Westlake Have Glory
Hole 4 u in my basement, massage room. Call me 4 hot mouth BJ, u have my number, Jack. ☎ 71789

Thur 3/30 9am-18th & Diamond
Me catching eastbound Muni #33. You getting into SUV, smiled, said too bad I wasn't going up the hill. Wish I had. You can give me a ride anytime! ☎ 71790

John We Met Briefly On April 7
Around 4pm on a beautiful day. Would like to spend some time getting to know you if possible. Can I buy you a cup of coffee? I'm also John! ☎ 71809

Joshua From Improv Class
Wish you hadn't left early in the semester. I wanted to get to know you better. Call me. **Lawrence.** ☎ 71810

Kevin Saturday Night 4/1 @ Eros
We kissed some more on the stairway landing. You dressed and we spoke about missing NYC. I'm back 4/12. Please call and let's get together again. **Michael.** ☎ 71813

Blow Buddies 4/14
You: 6'2"ish, cap, GL, hairy chest, tattoo on back shoulders. Me: 5'9", leather cap, beard, hairy chest, pierced navel. Think we could have fun home alone! ☎ 71835

I C U Everywhere! Never Met
Always a hit & miss. You attempted to speak to me on platform (sweaty body shirt off)! You: short grayish brown hair, usually wear blue/yellow tank on warm days, always energetic, smug smile, deep eyes, 5'10", 170lbs? Me: br/br/eyes, goatee, usual GANT redcap. Let's fuse our energies. ☎ 71812

Kabuki Saturday Evening 8 Apr.
You're a big beautiful bear. I'm a lean, hairy, bearded, blue-eyed man. I winked at you on my way out around 9pm. Anytime fella... ☎ 71836

Fri April 14 7:30am N Judah
You: GAM, brown hair. Our eyes met-you smiled. Me: GWM, brown jacket getting off at Duboce- late for work- couldn't talk. Would like to meet you. Call me please. ☎ 71837

Ferd!
Just want to see if you really do read the personals. Next time should I list this under seeking relationship? signed... you know who. ☎ 71870

Seeking Roark From San Bruno
We met once at Steamworks- can't forget about you. You GAM, me GWM, want to see you again. ☎ 71869

Rust Brown Volvo At Arco 4/20
You blonde with goatee; navy running shorts; white tee. Me black Toyota; shaved head. We were both filling up on gas. You #8, me #7; we looked and smiled several times. Please call me so we can talk and more. ☎ 71867

AG Ferrari Thur 20 April PM
You #43; me #45 a few words; smiles. Interested? Meet for coffee and dessert? I liked your smile. ☎ 71868

Tobe Don't Have Your Phone #
Thank you for flowers. Call Owen. ☎ 71811

Chris Zapata Taqueria 4/12
I enjoyed our lunch. You have the most beautiful blue eyes. I'd love to go to Angel Island with you! Please call, John. ☎ 71871

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

My Reward For Great Blow Jobs!
You shoot your max with my nimble tongue working under your pants—more for me to savour. ☎ 71792

Reward Me
With your great looks and nice body. Show me your sexy erotic naked needs. Be ready for me. ☎ 71839

You Can't Fake A Kiss
Bruce, we met. I went well for a few days. We parted—come back to me daddy. You're all the man I'll ever need. ☎ 71793

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking 34yo/dk hair brown eyes goatee, professional. Looking for GWM between 26-40yo for friendship. Me: like going to dinner, movies, travel, hiking, biking, just call. ☎ 71814

Good Looking Down To Earth
GLM, 34, 5'10", 175, HIV+, bottom & submissive, hairy, clean shaven, good looking, in-shape, looking for attractive muscular, masculine top, dominant Black male, 35-45, for LTR. ☎ 71815

Hi My Name Is Ralph, I am A Bi
White male looking for a female woman. Between 18-28 years old, to date + marry someday. I can bring happiness to them. ☎ 71816

Partner Wanted Honesty Helps
GWM, 5'11", 165#, 53, no, HIV+, seeks for same. Likes travel, walks, movies, gardening 35-55 for LTR. ☎ 71878

My Dream/Your Dream?
GM, clean cut, disease free, w/ prot. 40's (age unimportant), seeks same who feels sharing thoughts, feelings, dinners & bed, are important enough to seek out friendship & possible LTR. ☎ 71817

Good looking Latino
I'm single, 29yrs old, 5'7", 165lbs. stocky muscular, dark features, seeking Latinos or Whites 40 for friendship or for building a monogamous LTR. N/S guys only. ☎ 71818

Affectionate And Sincere
Looking for honest affectionate, fun-loving bottom, mid to late 50's, trim, fit, & masculine. I know how to cuddle and kiss and a few other things. ☎ 71819

Old-Fashioned Romantic Taurus
GWM (40's, 5'10", 175#, goatee, adm. eyes, killer smile), seeks Hispanic 30-45 into quiet evenings, rainy days, movies, cuddling for dating, poss LTR. Smokers ok. No drugs, heavy drinkers. ☎ 71820

Poz Leather Dad
50's WM 6' 185 seeks special boy: hairy, buzzed or bald, into tt, cbt, ff, light sm, bondage + romance. Any age- prefer mature, employed. Intensely sought. ☎ 71821

Looking For Life Partner
Professional top, Latin-looking 32yrs, 6', 150lbs. WLTM romantic, loving and mo monogamous man, 30+, not into bars. Like movies, laughter, intimate times and travel. No drugs. ☎ 71838

Above Ronnie
Daddy, we had our good time- with lots of bad- but even you say I deserve better. So let us give each other better- let us work it out. Love you. ☎ 71840

Got A Crotch Full Of Goodies?
I'm hooked on spurted cum, fresh hot piss, smelly cheese if uncult, licking sweat off big balls and rimming squeaky clean assholes there's no tomorrow (but no scat)! ☎ 71842

Seeking Sex Buddy
GWM, 54, 5'8", 185, br/blue, HIV-, wishes to meet Randy GM who enjoys being fucked off by another guy. Let's play safely, but still have a good time. ☎ 71843

An Ordinary Man?
I'm behind you in your face, close your eyes. Bewildering spontaneous, pretentious and a smart ass to boot. Let me be your ally, figure me out my friend. ☎ 71791

Love Me Tender I'll Be Only 4 You
I'm 36, 5'7", 142lbs, Brazilian, hot, horny, clean, educated, stable, nice hard dick, masculine, seeking 40-40 for friendship. After that romance, only love & love. ☎ 71845

Husband Material
GWM, 42yo, 200lbs, gm eyes, s&p hair, HIV-. Seeking 35 to 45yo, hairy top. I'm professional, easy going & financially secure. Like to travel, music, movies, have quality time w/that special guy. HIV-only. ☎ 71844

ISO Uncut Asian Hunk/Son/Lover
Up sweet/sm/rl empiend/cuddler/ready, 4 trim GM daddy 39; add/coc/sucker- rimmer/sweet off balls/clicker/piss drinker/Phi Beta Kappa/catch of your life. ☎ 71873

Philipino Men
GWM 6'2", 165lbs. Would like to orally service you deep for 1 or 2 hours. Lay back and enjoy my tongue. I can take it all -your manhood. ☎ 71874

Win Win Situation
Goodlooking, mid-thirties, WM (6'1", brown hair, green eyes, height-weight proportionate, clean-shaven), conventional looking / liberal thinking, college teacher, masseur, warm, sincere, sensually adept, communicative. Mediterranean looks a plus. Let's talk possibilities! ☎ 71875

32 WM Cute Muscular Bottom
Br/br 5'7", 175lbs. HIV+ into cycling, swimming, weights, music, food, laughter, sex. ISO GM 25-45, any race. Well built, masculine, intelligent & sensual. ☎ 71876

Hot, Muscular, Passion well rounded
GWM, muscular, hot bod, caring, fun, 35, loves a variety of things, 5'11", 175lbs, HIV+, spiritual, passionate. ISO same for great chemistry w/friend and long term lover. ☎ 71877

Senior Seeks Seniors...
For good fellowship and vigorous man-to-man sex. Call for details. In SF. ☎ 71841

Looking For Older Black Male
GWM, 45, 5'11", gr/br, 170, slim, prof. would like to meet Black masculine male 40-65 for dating or more. Me HIV-, s&s same, like dining out & romantic times. Call me. ☎ 71846

GAM 48 Seeks GWM 55 Or Over
For LTR. I am average build, prefer non-smoker & clean shaven. ☎ 71872

Rugged Guy
Professional, clean-cut, athletic Asian, 52, 5'8", 155, seeks similar lean or gym-toned, clean to shaven WM into hiking, sports, running, workouts, cultural arts, films, ethnic foods, quiet interludes and you? ☎ 71879

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Attn: Poz Arab-Amer Man Who
Had ad wanting dentured deepthroat expert. If you hairy a moustache, thick cock, hairy, built, call me. I'm tall, lean, furry, all man. ☎ 71773

Drill Me
GWM, 34, 6'1", 190# brown, green, glasses, pierced seeks hung tops 18-45 to fuck my ass. Safe only. Hairy a plus. Weekdays, your place pref. Couples okay. ☎ 71774

Play Doctor
It's been a year since my last physical. Give me a complete, nude scam- playful or humiliating, you decide. I'm late 30s, br/br hairy chest. ☎ 71775

Hot White Or Latino Bottoms
Are wanted by 56yr White top with big 9" cut cock. I want to fuck your hot ass. I'm 6'0" tall brk brk hair, brn eyes, glasses. You be 18-37 smooth bottom. ☎ 71776

My Ultimate Fantasy
Is serving as sex slave for two, hung, muscular tops: verbal abuse, bondage, water-sports, role plays, double anal penetration. I'm 6' buff, masculine mid 40's White boy. Use me! ☎ 71777

Naked Ecstasy
Free erotic full body massage for lean tight-bodied guys 20 to early 40's masculine lean WM 42. Any race, short or tall, hairy or smooth. ☎ 71778

I Want To Be Your Cocksucker
White, 46, hairy, green eyes, brown hair, 5'8", heavy, Cocksucker. Ready anytime. Prefer Black and Latino. I just want to suck you off then you leave. ☎ 71779

Front And Rear Oral Service
By eager GWM, 38, 5'8", 125#, gym toned. Into sucking, rimming, drinking piss. You: looking for service, White/Latino. Please be in shape. ☎ 71780

Hugs And Kisses For You
My arms hold what the world lacks. Me: attractive, top, 46, 6'5", 250lbs, husky. You attractive GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim, smooth/moderate body hair, nice buns. Good kisser a plus. ☎ 71794

Cocksucker Takes
Hot mud in tongue on your big cut cock in balls. 4 in-shape WM, married, single, bi, gay, straight your place/mine. ☎ 71795

Top White Boi Wants Asian
Bottom to service big dick. Am 30, cute, clean, fling top. Enjoy servicing my dick suck it & sit on it. S.F. Weekdays. ☎ 71796

Mid Peninsula Asian Cocksucker
42, 5'11", 185 likes giving head to guys under 45 with average boners who reciprocate, at your place. ☎ 71797

Mature Nipples
WM, 57, seeking mature for safe rimming and heavy nipple work. Big tongue, beard, 6'10", thick cock. You 55 plus. ☎ 71859

Mendocino Latin Bottom
33 very handsome 160lbs. 5'6", brown hair, clean cut, straight acting, deep throat, hot ass, seek well hung top. Dino. ☎ 71798

Black & White
Southbay, sensuous, hot, early 50's, safe, uninhibited, shaved, seeks photographer into black & white, for photo sessions, indoor/outdoor, will travel. ☎ 71800

Asian Master
38yrs 5'6", 140lbs seeking slim, clean shaven, younger submissive boy slave for bondage, s&m. Leave message describing yourself. ☎ 71823

Tobacco Users
Attr. LM 43, 6', 150lb. ISO tobacco chewers or dip users for deep kisses & sensual times. Smokers welcome too. Over 40 a+ but all welcome. No gay scene, s&m, drugs. ☎ 71824

Top This
Sexy Hispanic ISO South/East Bay HIV-studs, age open, looks unimportant, any race. I'm 5'8", 154, hung, mature, cute white ass and cock for your pleasure. ☎ 71825

Stiff And Restless
Hot, masculine, big-dick Italian topman wants to "get-off" with in-shape, under 40, Black, Asian, Latino, blue-collar White guys. Tops or bottoms. ☎ 71826

"Fuck Me Hard, Ooh Baby!"
ISO GWM/B, disease free. Into playing my hungry holes. Me w/ Asian 30's who is a willing cut. Call me or your loss, hurry up sweeties! ☎ 71827

Submissive Black Bottom
Seeks top dominant aggressive verbal. Likes for a guy to kick back. Available, some weekends & eves. ☎ 71828

Tantric Cocksucker Wanted
My big cock, your mouth- long & deep. Pleasure not orgasm oriented. Can you surrender to the energy? ☎ 71830

Blackmen 8" Or More
GWM 5'8", 155 hairy seeks BM who are well endowed and enjoy receiving head fucking and or if you won't be disappointed. ☎ 71831

ISO Ass & S&M Expert
I'm 5'2", 120lbs. 58yr bi-WM, HIV- submissive & crave's cock's. Need you to travel to Yuba City for wk-end or longer. Car, bus or train. ☎ 71832

Let's Play With It
Slip out your swollen penis bulbs & show 'em off. Slap & slide our stiff dongs together, make 'em swing & sway. I'm 48, 5'9", 155, bald, furry, goodlooking. Verbal and/or Asian a+. ☎ 71847

Chubby, Fat, Stocky, Heavy-Sex
GBM, 46y.o., 5'11", 250lbs. seeks chubby & fat men for uninhibited safe sex. Discretion a must. Big tits, thighs, legs & butt a plus. ☎ 71848

2 Cocksuckers
Looking for hot, uncult cocks to suck off by a goodlooking couple who works as a team. ☎ 71849

Daytime/Playtime
I'm GWM, HIV+, top, 6', 185#'s with days free seek playmate bottoms in Sonoma County for kissing, sucking, fucking! ☎ 71850

Hand Roast A Rump In Your Lap
With moderate heat, roast covered rum 15 minutes. Strip outer layer, roast little and baste to pink. Uncover and grill 1 hour till flesh's red, tender and blazingly hot. ☎ 71851

Play With This
I've got big nipples, big half round bubble butt and big dick...which one do you want to play with? "Safe sex only" ☎ 71852

Viking ISO Masculine Man
Swedish GM, 41y.o., 5'10", 145lbs. cobalt blue/dark blond, moustache, thin and fair, poz. ISO masc./muscular man w/ facial hair, poz, party animal, top, to have fun with. ☎ 71853

Boottlicking Fetish
Seek kink to age 45 who will allow me to lick and polish boots. Especially excited my military, police & cowboy attire. ☎ 71854

Got Dick??
Average GWM professional 50's, HIV-, 6'2", 200# non-gym, witty, down to earth, smoker, looking for nice guy with cut fat tool to orally service. ☎ 71855

My Priorities For Your Crotch:
Convincing it/you I'm your world-class (A) cocksucker (B) rimmer (C) piss drinker (D) cheese eater (if mercifully uncult!) I'm ready, but...are you? ☎ 71857

Santa Rosa. Hot Bottom
Great shape, 40, 175#, 6', brn/bm. Looking for in shape top. ☎ 71861

Got Forekin?
VGL 30yr GWM, ISO uncut White men to orally service. You be 18-35, masc., into kicking back for intense oral pleasure. Pluses: smooth/shaved, muscular, verbal, blond, hung. ☎ 71858

GWM Seeks Black Exhibitionist
32yo GWM seeks handsome hung Black stud who will jerk off while I watch up close and personal. ☎ 71799

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- ☐ Parting Glances
- ☐ Seeking Relationship
- ☐ Seeking Adventure
- ☐ Lesbian
- ☐ Fetishes
- ☐ Couples
- ☐ Others

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Asian Cocksucker Palo Alto 42
5'11"-190-lb, shd hair, brn eyes, seeks 36-46y.o. guys to suck off. Have car will travel within the Peninsula, at your place. **71860**

They Call Me "Big Black"

I need a tall, husky, non-bearded, submissive bottom to ride my rod. Discreet, experienced only. Moustache a plus. Fast, hot action. I'm 45, 5'9", 180lbs. honest. **71880**

Hot Man-Pussy

Asian, 35, 5'8", 165, in shape, total bottom wants to surrender his hot shaved hole to you. First, cock, I want it all. East Bay. **71881**

Young Slave For Dog Training

Very cute 26yo. submissive boy from Eastern Europe wants to dog trained by a cute but demanding master(s). Full obedience and cooperation guaranteed. **71856**

Lip Service And More

By dedicated cocksucker, friendly, talented, 40's, short beard. Like trim, virile guys with big dicks. Fuck my face and give me a workout, buddy! My place, SF, car helpful. **71822**

One Wild Fuck

Vers. muscle fuck looking for masculine handsome men to screw. I'm ready 24/7 to take you down. Can you do the same for me? **71882**

Horny In San Leandro

Handsome, hot 39yr. old GWM, loves to suck dick, slow and long, you tell me how you like it, open to all fantasies, call me 24 hours. **71883**

Very Willing Submissive

WM, 42yo, 5'7", 145# HIV+ your ties, toys, blind folds anal workouts are great. UB dominant, older, taller, kinky. Everything goes no pain/sat your place only SF. **71829**

I'm An Old Gray-Haired Cocksucker

Who does what he's told. Put your prick-I'll put my tongue-where we can both enjoy it. Pluses: friendliness, experience, lean physique, unmistakable masculinity. Any race. East Bay. **71884**

Let's Do It

Wanna fuck me? I wanna fuck you. I'm 52 yr. old, 6'2", 180lbs, 7"+. You are height/weight, somewhat the same, HIV+. **71885**

Like To Suck Cock And Get Fucked

GWM, 5'11", 175lbs. HIV-, n/s, n/d, I like to suck cock 6 to 8". Like to play with your ass and balls, get fucked while watching video's. Please call, age no factor. **71886**

LESBIAN

Seeking Lesbian

GWM European 24 seeks Lesbian to share experience. **71781**

Seeking Lesbian

GWM French, 24 seeks lesbian to share experience. **71887**

FETISHES

Brown And Yellow

Brown and yellow hankies, right side, is my style. Being relieved and pleased in these ways is yours. Tireless hot mouth and tongue. Invite me to hot dinner or lunch. **71782**

Foot Worship: Foot Rubbing

Mutual foot contact toe wrestle, GWM, 37 seeks similar for foot play. **71783**

Where To Go

To suck dick on Mon/Tues/Wed when Blow Buddies is closed? Mid-aged guy, beard, moustache, balding, craves study cock. **71784**

Very Thirsty Deep Throat

Expert has 6-pack for well endowed men who need sensual service. **71785**

Master 48, Experienced-

Seeks whipping boy/bondage slave- eager to please, and serve. Subject should be 24-38 with some training and the real desire to belong. Subject dedicated to the satisfaction of its master. Limits respected/expanded. **71862**

Muscle Worship

Gdkg- in shape aggressive slave for body builders. Must be muscle gods with arrogant masculine attitude & aggressive. Can travel S.F., Reno, Sac., Lake Tahoe. **71786**

LTH Son Seeks 2 LTH Granddads

Blond bootlicker 45/HIV-as into s/m, b/d, w/s will give anal/oral service to 2 hot, hung tops, 65+ Do me daddies! **71801**

I Love Bigger And Better

That make it worth the time & trouble of sucking you all the way. Your tool will love the way I suck it. (uncut a plus). **71802**

True Cocksucking Confessionals:

This addict maximizes your production with creative head. Bigger loads off your mind for you. Yummier than caviar for me. Triple treat (uncut combo). **71803**

Eroticism In Bondage & S/M

G blonde & Asian couple, cute, muscular, 33 & 38, wishes to be stripped & tied up by G couple or single, under 40, submission, CBT & more, switch roles will be great. **71804**

ISO Jockstraps & Foreskin

GWM 46 daddy type ISO younger uncut boy with a dirty jock and mind into mutual sucking, rimming, j.e. Video's, sweat, role play, toys, underwear, anything goes. Relationship possible. **71805**

Furry Lip And Open Throat?

I enjoy watching and feeling a thick moustache climbing and descending my thick manhood. No voice mail, beeper or work phone #s. Oakland. **71833**

FFT Seeks Latin/Asian/Black FFB

Into getting punched and stretched. Me: GWM, 28, 6'2", 153#, stash, goatee. You: any age, speed free. A+ for facial hair, stocky flat top. Safe sex a must. **71863**

Daytime Asshole-Eater!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!!! **71864**

Furry Lip And Open Throat?

Hung and horny East Bay man, 46, enjoys watching a moustache bouncing on his big stick. Too big for beginners. Please no beards or goatees, voicemail or work phones. **71865**

COUPLES

Seeking A Real Slave/Boy

Couple looking for slavery to include in our family. We enjoy life, having fun, and togetherness. You are submissive, dedicated, and ready for fun. Check us out boy! **71787**

Want To Watch??? Join In???

Two men into fucking. Dom has huge stiff uncut cock. Sub is older, eager to get worked over. Slick action. **71806**

Rub-A-Dub, Three Or More In A Tub

Sonoma Co.gdkg GWM couple, 40's, HIV+, w/facial hair, seek adventurous tops, bottoms, singles, couples for wet, hot times in our hot tub, sling and playroom. **71888**

OTHERS

Bisexual Deadhead

Seeks all comers, men, f, singles or couples. Friendships, fuckbuddies, lovers, smoke, drinks, music & camping. Long play sessions leather, w/s, b/d all. Pluses. Long haired horny bottom pig. **71807**

I'm Looking To Keep Up My

Language practice. Intense French romantic GWM 30's desires French boyfriend. Charming. Wild. Magical. Not into "franky French games." How can we meet? **71808**

Spirituality Book Group

Monthly reader's group surveys world faiths and ideas through biography, essay, fiction, sacred texts, and others. Non-denominational and open-minded. No previous knowledge or belief required. **71834**

Swedish Girl

Swedish girl new to Bay Area. Having such a blast. Looking to make GM friends, interests, business etc.... **71866**

BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

MASSAGE



JEFF GIBSON
CMT
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\$50

"I've had hundreds of massages before and yours is the best- the best of the best."

Joe Marchal, Olympic athlete

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- Sports massage
- Neuromuscular Therapy
- Soft Tissue Release
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Healing
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\$60 Jim 267-1817

Cute, Smooth, Tender

26Y/O ASIAN

In/Out-\$60

DAVE*567-7693

Erotic nude massage by well-built 48 yo man 24hrDwnnSF 3982441Mark



MAGIC TOUCH
DREW CMT

415-255-0850
\$70/in-\$80/hr out

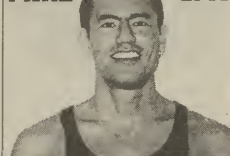
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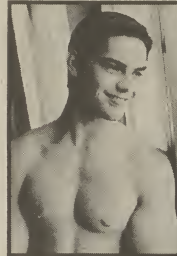


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Older Men & tourists OK 790-7888

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Our new **BAR TALK** personals system can help you
reach out and touch someone
besides yourself
for a change.

Our **BAR TALK** personals systems is new and improved!!

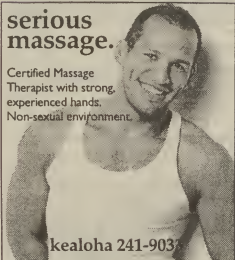
In order to bring our advertisers and respondents a better personals experience, we've introduced a completely new program, just in time for the new year! Placement of ads and deadlines remain the same. Enjoy our new improved **BAR TALK**!

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You can purchase time on our system by calling 1-800-321-6845 and requesting a 10, 20, 30 or 60 minute Block of Time™ with discounts of up to 20%. The cost is \$1.99 per minute and you may use your Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express. You will be able to respond, browse and retrieve messages by using your Block of Time™ account from any touch tone phone!

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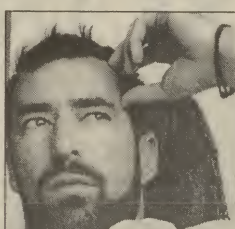
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333-3424 \$100-out a real massage20% discount to other body builders
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Mention discount. 221-6716. Darryl**STRONG
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**EAST BAY**RELAX-FEEL GREAT!
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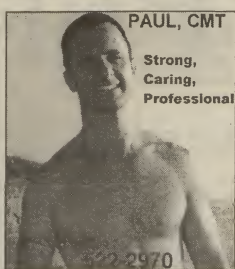
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TALL BLOND 6'3"
Swimmer's build, hairy chest. Hot
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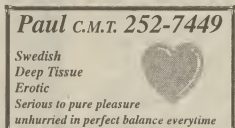
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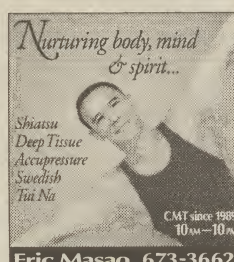
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Table photo on line Chip 626-4093Sexy Latin guy Joe. Erotic nude
massage 21yo. Nice body 5'7" 132
lbs. 415-251-1586. In/Out.Tall, very handsome muscular 27
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massage in front of a fireplace.
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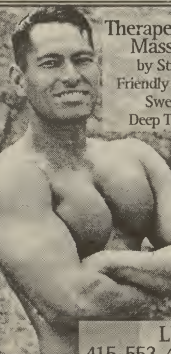
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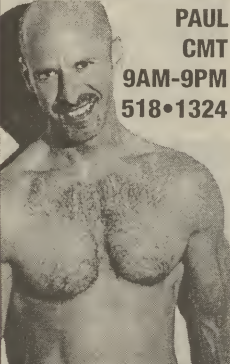
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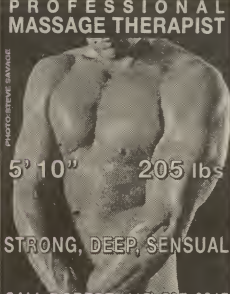
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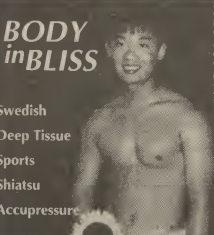
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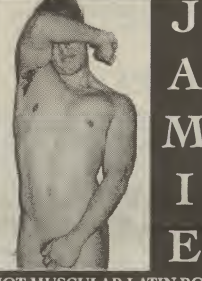
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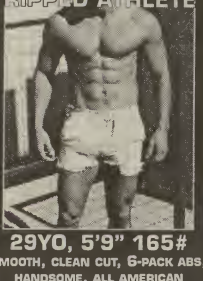
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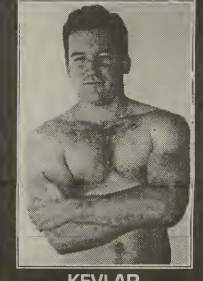
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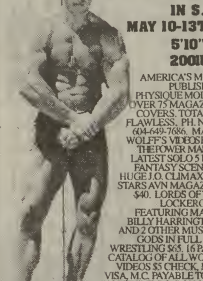
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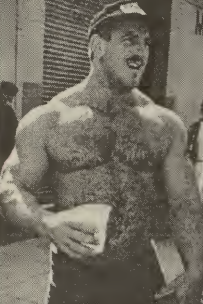
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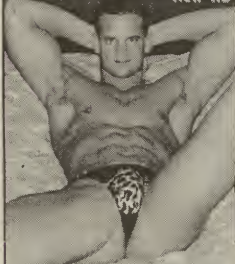
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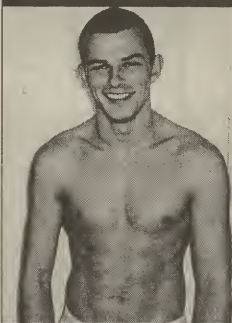
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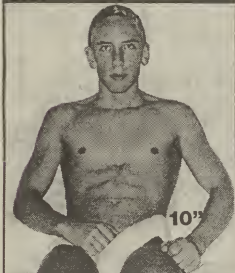
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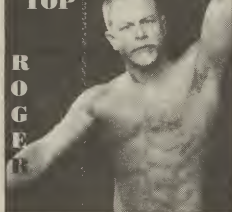
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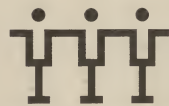
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